MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 APRIL 1983

Lebanon

Al-Jumayyil on Negotiations — Lebanon would prefer not to sign any agreement rather than concede rights to any non-Lebanese forces on its territory, President Amin al-Jumayyil told the Lebanese Press Association in remarks reported by Beirut radio on 22 April. Al-Jumayyil said he will not allow southern Lebanon to become another Golan, West Bank, or Gaza Strip. Regarding security arrangements and the future of Major Sa'd Haddad, he said Lebanon refuses to accept any "imposed" decision that would undermine the Army's morale, dignity, or performance, adding that it is "hard to believe" Israel's security depends on one person. Contrary to previous Israeli reports, the president said Lebanon has not accepted the principle of joint patrols in the south. He also expressed optimism about the reorganization of the Lebanese Army, asserting that the Army has made a "qualitative leap" forward in the last 6 months, during which 5,500 new recruits enlisted.

Israeli Position — The Israeli Cabinet decided not to discuss "for the time being" proposals by several ministers for an IDF withdrawal to the Al-Awwali River, IDF Radio reported on 24 April. Earlier, Israeli political sources cited by Jerusalem radio said that, if Secretary of State Shultz is unable to persuade Lebanon to accede to the system of security arrangements desired by Israel, Israel will be obliged to withdraw the IDF to the Al-Awwali River and establish a security fence there so that Al-Jumayyil will remain "president of East Beirut." Israel is "not prepared to renegotiate" issues which it considers settled despite assertions to the contrary by Al-Jumayyil, THE JERUSALEM POST reported on 25 April citing a highly placed Israeli source.

Military Situation — Beirut radio reported intermittent clashes between Israeli and Syrian forces on 23-24 April. The Syrians and Palestinians opened antiaircraft fire at Israeli planes overflying Shtawrah on 22 April, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Meanwhile, the Syrians deployed further reinforcements in the area, including the Palestinian Al-Yarmuk Brigade, and the Israelis have begun constructing an airfield in the western Al-Biqa' and a port south of Ad-Damur, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Dezful Attack — Iraqi forces fired three Soviet-made missiles at the Iranian city of Dezful on 22 April, the second missile attack in 3 days, Tehran radio reported. Sixty people were killed and more than 300 were injured, according to a 24 April IRNA report. Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi issued a statement on 22 April declaring that the attack "will not go unanswered," Tehran radio reported. While noting that several Iraqi towns are within the Iranian forces' firing range, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati declared that Iran "will never attack them," but will give the "appropriate answer" to the Iraqi regime on the battlefront, IRNA reported on 23 April.

Reconciliation Efforts — The Islamic popular conference's peace and reconciliation committee issued a statement in Baghdad blaming Iran for the failure of the committee's efforts to end the war, INA reported on 23 April. The statement described Iran's rejection of peace as an act of aggression against Iraq which makes Muslims "dutybound" to fight the aggressor, INA noted. The committee dismissed Iran's accusations that it was biased in favor of Iraq, INA added. The committee chairman said the conference should not reconvene in Iraq and stressed that it would meet in Iran if that country offers to host it, another INA report noted on 23 April. In another development Iraqi President Saddam Husayn urged Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, to renew efforts to end the conflict with Iran, Delhi radio reported on 25 April.

Oil Slick Dispute — Were it not for Iraq's eagerness to preserve the interests of the Arab Gulf states, Iraq would have insisted on preventing Iran from repairing the Nowruz oil well in order to inflict the "gravest losses" on the Iranian regime, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said in a statement reported by INA on 23 April. He described Iran's demand for a localized cease-fire to repair the leaking oil well as "strange and illogical" and said the only practical and serious way to solve the problem is to force Iran to halt the war. Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Mirza Taheri earlier denied reports that Iran would not participate in forthcoming talks of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment, asserting that Iran will take part in the meeting in a "more decisive manner" while maintaining its previous stand, Tehran radio reported. He warned that, if Iraq persists in its "aggressive acts" and the Gulf states fail to exert "suitable pressure" on Iraq, the oil pollution will cause irreparable damage to the southern Gulf states.

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Activities — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis on 24 April after returning from Morocco where he held talks with King Hassan II on the Palestinian-Jordanian Dialogue, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO and Algiers Voice of Palestine radios. Earlier, 'Arafat announced in remarks broadcast by Rabat radio that the PLO Executive Committee had confirmed its position on the PLO-Jordanian talks during the 21-22 April meeting in Tunis. According to AFP, "some" members of the Executive Committee had urged a total halt to efforts to reach agreement with Jordan's King Husayn.

Financial Affairs — The PLO is facing a deficit because Iran and Libya have stopped financial support, Kuwait's AL-HADAF reported on 22 April.

Saudi Advice — The Palestinian leaders should prove to the United States that it is Israeli intransigence and not the PLO's position which is blocking a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Saudi Arabia's AL-JAZIRAH asserted in a commentary reported by SPA.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi King Fahd received an Algerian presidential envoy and the Jordanian foreign minister on 24 April, according to SPA reports. Meanwhile, the Jordanian information minister delivered messages to the UAE president and the Qatari amir, WAKH and Doha radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Information Minister — A royal decree carried by SPA announced that Information Minister Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani is to be dismissed and replaced by 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir, currently Saudi ambassador to Lebanon.

Coup Plot Denial — A "responsible" source denied the Lebanese Phalangist paper AL-'AMAL's report that "U.S. intelligence" and Saudi authorities have uncovered a planned coup prepared by Soviet intelligence in cooperation with internal extremist elements, Riyadh radio reported.

Egypt

Relations With USSR — Egypt and the Soviet Union signed a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement, MENA reported on 23 April. Although Yugoslavia's TANJUG said the agreement presages an imminent exchange of ambassadors, a Soviet diplomatic source cited by Radio Monte Carlo said that, while the agreement confirms the existing rapprochement between Egypt and the Soviet Union, this does not mean bilateral relations will be normalized.

Proscription of Haykal's Book — The authorities have banned Egyptian journalist Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal's book "Autumn of Fury" as well as all press serialization of its contents, the leftist paper AL-AHALI reported on 20 April.

Libya

Arab diplomatic sources cited by the London weekly AL-MAJALLAH disclosed that Libya has asked the Soviet Union for SAM-5's.

Iran

The clandestine Seda-ye Iran and Free Voice of Iran radios reported on 23 April that Iran is making preparations to announce Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's death. Seda-ye Iran stated that the Council of Experts was ordered to remain in Tehran, and the Free Voice of Iran claimed that Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri secretly visited Tehran to meet with Iranian leaders. Following Khomeyni's 27-minute recorded speech broadcast by Tehran radio on 24 April, the Free Voice of Iran stated that Khomeyni spoke "with a voice which betrayed the seriousness of his condition." Iranians who met with Khomeyni on 24 April described him as speaking with "the voice of a sick person on the verge of death," according to the clandestine Radio Iran.

Afghanistan

Geneva Talks — The Geneva talks were adjourned until June to permit the DRA and Pakistani delegations to consult with their respective governments, Karachi radio reported on 22 April.

Panjshir Valley — French doctors visiting the area reported that fighting between rebels and Soviet forces has ceased, possibly as a result of an agreement between local mujahidin leader Ahmad Mas'ud and the Soviet authorities, AFP reported on 23 April.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 080 *25 April 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO Issues Statement; 'Arafat To Meet King Hassan *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... A 1
Fatah Central Committee Convenes in Tunis ..... A 1
'Arafat Attends *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 1
New U.S. Initiative 'Expected' *[Kuwait]* ..... A 1
Meetings End 25 April *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... A 1
'Arafat on Morocco Talks, Mideast Situation *[Algiers VOP]* ..... A 1
Saudi Paper: King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet in Fes *[WAKH]* ..... A 2
PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Talks With USSR Delegation *[Algiers VOP]* ..... A 2
Baghdad Voice of PLO On Reagan Press Remarks ..... A 2
Statements Termed 'Hostile' ..... A 2
'Violent, Political Attack' ..... A 2
PLO's 'Arafat To Tour Gulf Countries Shortly ..... A 3
[Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-AMM 23 Apr]
Palestine Broadcast on Conditions of Shultz' Trip ..... A 3
Lebanese Troops Storm Palestinian Center in Beirut *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4
Monte Carlo: Palestinian Official on POW Exchange ..... A 4
Palestine Broadcast on Mideast Situation ..... A 4
Communique Issued on 'Arafat's Hungarian Tour *(cross-reference)* ..... A 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

AL-ANBA': Contacts Held for Omani-PDRY Meeting ..... C 1
GCC Measures To Facilitate Journalists' Work *[AL-WATAN 22 Apr]* ..... C 1
SPA: GCC Labor Ministers Meet in Riyadh ..... C 1
Gulf Oil Slick Meeting To Convene in Kuwait ..... C 1
Gulf Dailies on Shultz Middle East Tour ..... C 1
AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Qabus To Brief GCC Leaders *[23 Apr]* ..... C 2

OMAN

Egyptian Paper Interviews Omani Minister 23 April ..... C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH Urges PLO To Follow Peace Initiatives ..... C 3
Riyadh Radio Denies Coup Attempt Report ..... C 3
More on Saudi Coup Denial ..... C 3
Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives 24 April ..... C 3
King Fahd's Meeting With Algerian Envoy Reported ..... C 4
King Fahd Dismisses Information Minister ..... C 4
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives 25 April ..... C 4

EGYPT

Mubarak Speech on Sinai Return Anniversary ..... D 1
Mubarak Urges Palestinian-Jordanian Accord ..... D 1
Mubarak Attends Sinai Liberation Army Ceremony ..... D 1
Minister Cites Mubarak on Foreign Policy ..... D 1

Report on Mubarak Speech Interruption Scorned ..... D 2
Comment on Coming Visit by George Shultz ..... D 2
Mubarak on Visit ..... D 2
Mubarak Comments Further ..... D 2
'Ali on Shultz' Tour ..... D 3
'Sources' Outline Stance ..... D 3
MENA Previews Talks ..... D 3
Monte Carlo: Ghali Urges 'Arafat To Act Positively ..... D 4
Cultural, Scientific Agreement With USSR Signed ..... D 4
USSR Official on Protocol *[Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... D 4

IRAQ

Communiques Issued on 21-24 Apr Operations ..... E 1
Number 1,069 ..... E 1
Number 1,070 ..... E 1
Number 1,071 ..... E 1
President Greets Air Force Commander ..... E 2
Chief of Staff on Recent Battles With Iran ..... E 2
Army Commander Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH ..... E 2
President Confers With Islamic Committee Chairman ..... E 2
Chairman Holds News Conference ..... E 3
Iraqi-USSR Cooperation Committee Meets ..... E 3
Foreign Minister Comments on Oil Slick ..... E 3
Azeri Commentary Scores Iran Over Oil Spill ..... E 4
Minister Leaves for Kabul National Day Festival ..... E 5

JORDAN

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee To Continue *[ASH-SHA'B 22 Apr]* ..... F 1
Amman Press Comments on Arab Summit, Shultz ..... F 1
JORDAN TIMES on Shultz Visit to Middle East *[23 Apr]* ..... F 2
Criticizes Reagan on PLO *[24 Apr]* ..... F 3
Commentary Views Recent Reagan Statements ..... F 3
SAWT ASH-SHA'B on King's Messages to Arab Leaders ..... F 3
King Husayn Receives Algerian Envoy, Message ..... F 4
Envoy Leaves, Makes Statement ..... F 4
King's Envoys Leave Amman With Messages 24 Apr ..... F 4
Hasan Ibrahim Receives UN Press Delegation ..... F 4
Abu 'Awdah Receives Delegation ..... F 4
GDR Deputy Minister Makes Statement, Leaves ..... F 5
Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Arrives ..... F 5

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil Discusses Talks With Israel ..... G 1
UK'S Callaghan Arrives in Beirut 22 April ..... G 2
Callaghan Optimistic About Talks ..... G 2
Callaghan on War Risk ..... G 3
25 April Tripartite Negotiations Begin in Khaldah ..... G 3
Fattal Interviewed ..... G 3
Spokesman Reports ..... G 3
Further Report On Talks ..... G 4
Al-Wazzan Hails Reagan Statements on Talks ..... G 4
VOL Notes Shultz Telegram Response to Salim ..... G 4
Deployment of Soviet Arms in Ra's al-Matn ..... G 4
Socialists Receive Soviet Weapons *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 4
More Syrian Reinforcements Reportedly Enter Al-Biqa' ..... G 5
Israeli, Syrian Reinforcements Reported *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 5
Syrian-Israeli Clashes ..... G 5
Syrian Quarters Praise Al-Jumayyil Stand ..... G 5

VOL Fears Military Confrontation Being Prepared ..... G 5
U.S. Reportedly Wants Turkey in Beirut Force ..... G 5

SYRIA

Shultz Trip Linked With Israeli War Plans ..... H 1
Monte Carlo: Shultz Reportedly Welcome Here ..... H 1
Dailies Accuse Israel of Planning Aggression ..... H 1
AL-BA'TH Editorial *[19 Apr]* ..... H 1
AL-BA'TH Notes 'Hostile Plan' ..... H 2
TISHRIN Commentary ..... H 2
Damascus Commentary Criticizes U.S. Credibility ..... H 3
Soviet Magazine on Israeli Movements in Al-Biqa' ..... H 3
Mashariqah Discusses Ties With USSR Ambassador ..... H 3

ISRAEL

Shultz Coming to Mideast To Aid Peace Talks ..... I 1
Initial Assessment ..... I 1
Motives Questioned *[JERUSALEM POST 25 Apr]* ..... I 1
'Warm' Welcome Expected *[YEDI AHARONOT 25 Apr]* ..... I 2
Peace Negotiations in Khaldah Appear Stalled ..... I 2
Arens-Shamir Meeting ..... I 2
Shamir Comments on Talks ..... I 2
Both Sides Appear Firm ..... I 3
25 April Talks 'Decisive' ..... I 3
Cabinet Discusses Partial Withdrawal Proposal ..... I 4
Sarid Says Most MK's Knew War's Goal Was Beirut ..... I 4
Peres Denies Sarid Remarks ..... I 4
PLO Said Refusing To Allow IRC To See POW's *[YEDI AHARONOT 24 Apr]* ..... I 4
U.S. Embassy Bombers Thought To Be Shi'ites *[JERUSALEM POST 24 Apr]* ..... I 5
U.S. Reportedly Forewarned ..... I 5
Syrian Military Activity Reportedly Increasing ..... I 5
Armored Vehicle Buildup ..... I 5
Soviets in Lebanon *[HA'ARETZ 25 Apr]* ..... I 6
Jerusalem Arabic Comment ..... I 6
Cabinet Decides on Nuclear Power Station ..... I 6

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

AL-MAJALLAH: Government Seeking SAM-5's *[23-29 Apr]* ..... Q 1

MOROCCO

Rabat Reports 'Arafat Comments on Arrival ..... Q 1
Hassan Receives 'Arafat, Officials ..... Q 1

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

New Foreign Minister Appointed 23 April ..... R 1
More on Cabinet Reshuffle ..... R 1
Further on Appointments ..... R 1

KENYA

Arap Moi Alludes to External Interference ..... R 2

SOMALIA

President Addresses Information Ministry Leaders ..... R 3

UGANDA

Belgian Cargo Aircraft To Be Released *[Nairobi]* ..... R 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Brings Political Leader Into Government ..... S 1

CHAD

Aid Delays Causing 'Chronic' Food Shortages ..... S 1
Government Introduces 'Protectionist' Measures ..... S 1

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Exiled Opposition Leader Threatens Violence ..... S 2
Foreign Affairs Minister Visits Bulgaria *[cross-reference]* ..... S 2

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

Upper Volta's Ouedraogo Arrives 22 April *[Ouagadougou]* ..... T 1

CAMEROON

Biya Thanks Shagari for Warm Reception ..... T 1

GHANA

Ouedraogo Ends Visit, Signs Joint Communique ..... T 1

GUINEA

Foreign Affairs Minister Visits Bulgaria *(cross-reference)* ..... T 1

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny Addresses Nation on Teachers Strike ..... T 1

NIGER

NIGERIA

Shagari Warns Against Causing Shortages ..... T 4

SENEGAL

U.S. Aircraft Carrier Blamed for Earth Tremors ..... T 4

TOGO

Ouedraogo Makes Statement on Leaving Lome ..... T 4

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

SWAPO CC Meeting Reported; Nujoma Reelected ..... U 1
UN Delegation Leader Holds Press Conference ..... U 1
Lisbon: UNITA Claims Angolan Town Captured ..... U 2
Captured Europeans 'Out of Reach' of MPLA Forces *[Voice of Black Cockerel]* ..... U 2
UNITA Radio Interviews MPLA 'Deserters' *[Voice of Black Cockerel]* ..... U 3
Polish Envoy Travels to Namibe Province ..... U 4
Defense Minister Meets Bulgaria's Zhivkov ..... U 4

MALAWI

President Discusses Coming Elections 22 April ..... U 5

MOZAMBIQUE

Infiltration of RSA-Armed Agents Increases ..... U 5
Delegations Arrive For Frelimo Congress ..... U 5

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Replies to Bishops on Namibia ..... U 6

ZAMBIA

Zairian Embassy Suspected of Counterfeiting ..... U 6

ZIMBABWE

Three Arrested, Linked to Murder of Senator *[SAPA]* ..... U 6

PLO Issues Statement; 'Arafat To Meet King Hassan

JN221234 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee concluded its meeting in Tunis at noon today. This meeting began yesterday under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship. A short while ago a statement was issued on the results of the meeting. The statement said that the committee discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the Jewish settlement campaign which is being implemented according to a well-studied plan by Begin's government. It also discussed the organized terrorism being practiced against the Palestinians on the largest possible scale. The committee stressed that steadfastness and resistance of the Israeli occupation and settlement plans are the decisive reply to the Zionist policy.

The statement also said that the committee studied the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon and the measures being adopted by some circles to harass them contrary to all commitments and agreements. It decided to hold proper political contacts and adopt some necessary steps to confront this situation.

On the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, the statement only indicated that the committee discussed a detailed report on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks and the latest developments regarding them. It stressed its adherence to the position adopted by the PLO on the basis of PNC resolutions.

Finally, the PLO Executive Committee decided to resume its consultations in another meeting to be held in the first week of next month in order to follow up the political developments and discuss the call for an emergency Arab summit.

A Palestinian source in Tunis told us that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee members Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] have left Tunis for Rabat to meet with Moroccan King Hassan II.

Fatah Central Committee Convenes in Tunis

'Arafat Attends

JN241642 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee met in Tunis this afternoon, with brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] attending. The Central Committee discussed the latest developments in the current Arab situation, and the Palestinian question in particular, and the condition of our people in the occupied homeland and in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in general.

Brother Abu 'Ammar returned to Tunis after holding talks with Moroccan King Hassan II on the latest developments in the Palestinian question and the emergency Arab summit called for by the Moroccan monarch.

New U.S. Initiative 'Expected'

LD251054 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis: At a meeting chaired by Yasir 'Arafat last night, the Fatah Central Committee discussed the possibilities of breaking the current impasse in the Midle East by means of a new American initiative. Mr 'Arafat called for the covening of this meeting after talks with His Majesty King Hassan II, who is said to be mediating between the PLO and Jordan.

Spokesman for the organization 'Abd ar-Rahman did not mention any details but diplomats in Tunis said they expected some kind of initiative from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that would help to bridge the gap between the initiative of U.S. President Reagan, which calls for the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza strip in association with Jordan, and the Arab peace plan which calls for an independent Palestinian state.

Meetings End 25 April

JN251317 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] In Tunis this afternoon, a well-informed Palestinian source said that the Fatah Central Committee, which wound up its meetings in Tunis early today under Yasir 'Arafat, has unanimously agreed to resucitate the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which have been frozen since 10 April, and to support Yasir 'Arafat's political line, particularly regarding the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

'Arafat on Morocco Talks, Mideast Situation

LD241912 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Brother commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Tunis from Morocco after holding long talks with the Moroccan King Hassan II. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said that the coordination of the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue was the topic of these talks with the Moroccan king.

In his statement, Brother leader Abu 'Ammar said that this issue formed the main point on the agenda of the meeting of the PLO Executive Committee which was held in Tunis.

He added: The PLO Executive Committee supported the line followed by the organization in its talks with Jordan. Brother Abu 'Ammar noted that his talks with the Moroccan king also dealt with the position of the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in Lebanon, the poisonings of the Palestinian students and the desecration of the holy places — Islamic and Christian — in the occupied city of Jerusalem committed by the Zionists.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar confirmed that the talks he had begun last week with the Moroccan king had been postponed at his request in order to enable him to go to Czechoslovakia,

Hungary, and Romania on a visit whose schedule had been fixed earlier.

On the other hand, Brother leader Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, is expected to chair a meeting of the national liberation movement Fatah Central Committee.

The radio reporter said that the meetings will deal with the latest developments in the area since the meeting of the committee in Kuwait at the beginning of the month. Also Brother leader Abu 'Ammar will inform members of the Fatah Central Committee of the results of his talks with the Moroccan king, the results of his recent visits to a number of Scandinavian and socialist states and his visits to a number of Arab states.

Saudi Paper: King Husayn, 'Arafat To Meet in Fes

GF231306 Manam WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 23 Apr (WAKH) — King Husayn of Jordan will shortly hold a meeting in the Moroccan city of Fes with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and thus, the Palestinian-Jordanian talks, which were recently held in Amman, will be resumed.

This was reported by Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH and was attributed to well-informed Palestinian sources. The paper said that it has become certain that the convening of the emergency Arab summit, which was postponed until early next month, will depend on the results of this meeting.

Quoting Arab diplomatic sources, the paper added that the Morrocan king gave a special invitation to King Husayn in order to resume the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. The sources pointed out that the presence of 'Arafat in Morocco, to resume his discussions with the Moroccan king, will provide an opportunity to discuss the details of a Jordanian-Palestinian summit meeting in light of the current consultations of the Palestinian leader with a number of Palestinian, Arab, and international sides.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Talks With USSR Delegation

LD222318 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Yuriy Barabash, chairman of the Soviet Society for Friendship and Solidarity With the Palestinian People [organization name as heard] and first deputy minister of culture arrived [place, date not given] at the head of a Soviet delegation on a 4-day visit for talks with the PLO.

The delegation met with Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestinian-Soviet Friendship Society. During their visit, they discussed the question of developing and strengthening friendship relations between the Palestinian and Soviet peoples and developing the work of the two societies in a manner serving their [word indistinct] aims. They also discussed current Middle East issues, particularly developments concerning the Palestinian issue.

Baghdad Voice of PLO On Reagan Press Remarks

Statements Termed 'Hostile'

JN231805 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1650 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Among the things that U.S. President Ronald Reagan said in his hostile statements against the PLO at the press conference in the White House yesterday was that the PLO is assisting the Nicaraguan Government by supplying it with military hardware and technical expertise. He added that, according to the information furnished by his CIA, some 50 PLO pilots and technicians are now working in Nicaragua and that the PLO had sent 50 tons on weapons to the Nicaraguan Government and to El Salvador. The U.S. President said that he considered this to be interference in the internal affairs of a Latin American country.

With this poor logic the U.S. President tries to change the established facts, which are known to all nations, especially the friendly Nicaraguan people, who are resisting open U.S. intereference in their internal affairs. We do not want to defend our friends in Nicaragua or El Salvador, because they are undoubtedly capable of defending themselves. But we would like the U.S. President to know that what he considers an accusation against us, because our revolution is supporting the world peoples who are struggling for their national freedom and independence and against open imperialist interference in their internal affairs, is something we are proud of.

We have often said that our revolution is an indivisible part of the world liberation movement in its struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Therefore, let the U.S. President deceive himself as he likes, because the facts will not be distorted or changed by statements at press conferences through which the speakers try to pose as knowledgeable on all matters so as to reinforce a credibility which has vanished due to their established hostile policies against the world peoples who are fighting for progress, freedom, and independence.

'Violent, Political Attack'

JN232012 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1602 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, the U.S. Administration continues its violent political attack against the PLO in an intensive campaign which has been going on now for about 2 weeks. Yesterday, U.S. President Ronald Reagan again brandished his old weapons and made hostile statements against our Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. These nervous statements lacked any credibility, especially his claim that none of the Palestinians had elected the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

This claim places President Reagan's own personal credibility in doubt. It also shows why the U.S. Administration has lacked credibility in all the political plans it has proposed concerning the Middle East. At any rate, this perplexing, incoherent claim expresses the insistence of the U.S. Administration on not recognizing the established facts in the Arab-Zionist conflict and not seeing the facts as they are.

The U.S. President undoubtedly realizes that what he has claimed completely lacks objectivity and precision. He is undoubtedly also informed of the press reports from the occupied homeland which confirm that the PLO is the Palestinian people. This is why the Palestinian people have rallied around the PLO, marched under its flag in the national struggle, and carried out one uprising after another against the occupation. The Palestinian people are thus implementing the PLO's political programs on the ground and fighting to achieve its objectives, which are their own just objectives.

President Reagan insists on playing the role of the ostrich without hesitation. He also insists on placing himself on the same level as the Zionist enemy leaders, who are speaking the same incoherent language, sometimes using different words and sometimes identical words. At any rate, President Reagan's hostile statements against our people and the leader of their national struggle are well-known to us. They confirm the United States' open hostility toward our people and their national rights. They are also not new to us. U.S. history, with regard to our people's just rights and national movement, is full of hostile stands and conspiratorial, liquidatory plans. Our people are fully aware of the U.S. role in ignoring and antagonizing their national rights at a time when the United States continues to give all kinds of support to the Zionist enemy.

Therefore, President Reagan has not brought anything new concerning this U.S. position. The only new thing is the the U.S. Administration's persistent hostility to our people and their national leadership and in peddling its political plans, which only serve its strategic ally in the Arab region — racist Israel — and its interests and exploitative ambitions against the entire Arab region.

It remains to be said that the U.S. attack against the PLO in such a strong and violent manner to liquidate our people's political role through their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, reflects the political position the PLO has attained in the world, a position which certifies that it is impossible to bypass the PLO in any attempt to achieve a just settlement of the situation in the Arab region, especially concerning the Palestine question.

PLO's 'Arafat To Tour Gulf Countries Shortly

GF241642 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Apr 83 pp 1, 31

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Well-informed Palestinian sources told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will make a Gulf tour during the next few days after his meetings with Palestinian leaders to brief the leaders of these countries on the outcome of his contacts which he held with a number of Arab and foreign leaders on the settlment of the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian cause.

The sources said: The Palestinian leadership's meetings in Tunis will not change the PLO's view toward the U.S. President's initiative on the Middle East. First, the meetings will call for the need of a U.S. pledge and guarantee for the Palestinians' return to their homeland and the establishment of a Palestinian state before participating in any future negotiations. Palestinian circles believe that a Palestinian settlement of the Palestinian cause can be achieved through an international conference in which the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, take part so that the United States will not keep the Soviets — who support the Arab countries, particularly Syria and the PLO — out of the settlement.

The sources said Romanian President Ceausescu sent a message to Menachem Begin the day before yesterday [21 April] that included his view of the settlement of the Middle East crisis and that this view came after the visits Yasir 'Arafat made to Romania and a number of East European countries.

Regarding Jordan, a leading Palestinian source expected an envoy of Yasir 'Arafat to arrive in Amman this week with message to the Jordanian monarch on the amicable relations between Jordan and the PLO. The source described these relations as good and developing and that the Palestinians do not want to exploit them to turn the Arab-U.S. crisis into a Jordanian-Palestinian crisis, particularly since in his initiative Reagan cancelled the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and their right to establish an independent state and that Arab countries clearly understand this situation.

Jamal as-Surani, PLO Executive Committee member, told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday that the PLO is strictly committed to the PNC resolutions and will never retreat on them and that the U.S. call for some Arab countries to withdraw their recognition of the PLO will never affect it because the PLO is recognized by most of the world's countries. He said there is no need to debate this and that the new U.S. stand proves the continued U.S. hostility to Arab peoples, particularly the Palestinians.

Palestine Broadcast on Conditions of Shultz' Trip

JN242036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brothers on the path of revolution and liberation: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is due to arrive in Cairo tomorrow, Monday, beginning a tour of the region which will also include the Zionist entity, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia. President Reagan announced this tour at the press conference he gave in the White House the day before yesterday and during which he launched a violent attack on the PLO. He called for the expansion of the peace process in the Middle East without the participation of the PLO.

Therefore, George Shultz has begun his tour of the region with an escalation of the U.S. attack on the PLO as manifested by President Reagan's recent statement and by statement of his Secretary of State Shultz in which he called on the Arab states to cancel the 1974 summit resolutions recognizing the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Shultz' tour also takes place after the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which, in turn, have led to the failure of the Reagan plan, which is essentially based on solving the Palestine question within the framework of the relationship with Jordan. Therefore, Shultz has come to the region to revitalize the Middle East initiative of President Reagan. During his talks in Amman and other capitals in the region, Shultz hopes to urge Jordan to enter into separate talks with the Zionist entity without the participation of the PLO.

Shultz' tour also comes at a time when the mission of U.S. envoy Habib and the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations have become deadlocked because of the Israeli intransigence which is backed and encouraged by the United States. President Reagan said frankly at his press conference that the main task of his secretary of state will be to give momentum to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. In practice, this statement conflicts with the U.S. position, which backs Israel and its aggressive expansionist policy in Lebanon, the West Bank, Gaza, and the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. This reveals the truth about the U.S. procrastination and the exposed U.S. role, which some people describe as balanced and even-handed, when, in fact, it only meets the Israeli conditions and demands with regard to Lebanon and the occupied Arab areas.

Last, but not least, Shultz is beginning his tour of the region amid the sabre-rattling and the beating of war drums which are heard in Tel Aviv. Israel has reinforced its military concentrations in the Al-Biqa' region opposite the Syrian forces, and the Tel Aviv leaders have threatened a military strike against Syria to strengthen their defense capabilities. Therefore, the Shultz tour is generally aimed at supporting the Israeli position politically through the Khaldah-Qiryat Shemona negotiations, and militarily through U.S. participation in arranging Israeli aggression against the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa'.

The beginnings of the tour are an indication of its endings. If the tour will begin, as announced by President Reagan the day before yesterday, with a call for diminishing the role and significance of the PLO, then it will fail just as the previous tours of U.S. secretaries of state and defense have failed.

The entire world agrees that the Palestine question constitutes the crux of the Arab-Zionist conflict and that the PLO, which has been recognized by the majority of word nations, is the legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. The PLO alone has the right to speak on behalf of the Palestinians and to represent their cause. These firmly established facts have become fundamental truths, which no one has the right to abandon or compromise. Therefore, how can Reagan and his Secretary of State Shultz assume the right to exclude the PLO as the representative of the Palestine question? How can the U.S. Administration, which has been hostile to our people and their cause, assume the right to bypass the PLO and pull the rug from under its feet? What sheer naivete and mockery!

These calls we are hearing from the highest Washington authority will not shake our people's will and determination to continue the struggle, under the PLO leadership, to foil the plot, especially the Reagan plan which seeks to liquidate the Palestine question by usurping the rights of the Palestinian people and liquidating the PLO. The suspect calls which are made in Washington and some of the region's capitals to pull the rug out from under the feet of the PLO to facilitate the peddling of the Reagan plan will crash before the solidarity of our Palestinian people with its struggler organization, the PLO, and before their adherence to their inalienable rights, especially their right to establish the Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

Lebanese Troops Storm Palestinian Center in Beirut

JN241706 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The director of the Palestine Research Center in Beirut has said that Lebanese soldiers have stormed the center and carried out searches, claiming they were looking for weapons. He added that the soldiers dashed into the center and hit the employees with their rifle butts. The soldiers later scattered the center's documents all over the place.

Monte Carlo: Palestinian Official on POW Exchange

JN221513 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] In Damascus, Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-General Command, has said that the exchange of prisoners between the PLO and Israel would only take place when 47 members of the front currently detained in Israeli prisons are released. Jibril explained that this point has not yet been settled.

Palestine Broadcast on Mideast Situation

JN242026 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Palestine broadcast: from "On the Events" program]

[Text] Brothers on the path of the revolution and liberation: Reports from fraternal Lebanon say that the Zionist enemy forces in Al-Biqa' are on full alert, after being reinforced over the past 2 days by new units and armor, in preparation for carrying out a military adventure against Syria. Western political sources and Arab and international press have unanimously agreed that military confrontation will definitely take place and that it is imminent.

Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will make a tour of the region during which he will visit a number of the Arab capitals. In light of the statements made by U.S. President Reagan, we can assess the real purpose of this tour, since it is a diplomatic activity which will pave the way for the expected Zionist aggression. This is similar to the role of U.S. diplomacy,

before and during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer. Therefore, U.S. diplomacy is part of the Israeli war machine band, which acts in accordance with and on the basis of the requirements of the Israeli aggressive and expansionist policy.

If the Zionists and U.S. imperialists prepare for the aggression in such a way, it is our right and duty to ask the Arab officials — especially in countries whose rulers receive Washington envoys with broad smiles and exchange views with them frankly and overtly, because these officials are considered friends of the United States — we must ask them to answer one definite question for the Arab masses: Are they for or against Israeli aggression? Are they for or against U.S. aggression? If they are against it, we only ask them to hide their smiles during their private receptions of Shultz and those like him, the envoys of the Israeli war machine. We only want them to convey to the U.S. butcher a picture of the feelings of the Arab citizen. But we are confident that they will not even do this, because their feelings have become dull and they no longer share the feelings of the Arab citizen. By their feelings, thoughts, and views, they have become part of the imperialist-Zionist camp. Their main concern is to destroy the will of liberation in the region and the Arab aspirations for salvation. In their view, Israel is no more than a watchdog for their personal interests, in the same way as it is a watchdog for the interests of U.S. imperialism.

Hence, we say to the Arab citizen, who understands the importance of the expected confrontation in determining his pan-Arab fate: Be ready to release your depressed feeling at the drum beating of the anticipated war.

Communique Issued on 'Arafat's Hungarian Tour

For the Budapest NEPSZABADSAG version of the communique on the visit of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Hungary from 19 to 20 April, see the Hungary section of the 25 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

GULF AFFAIRS

AL-ANBA': Contacts Held for Omani-PDRY Meeting

GF221202 Doha QNA in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Apr (QNA) — The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that Gulf consultations and contacts are being held to arrange a meeting between officials from the PDRY and Oman to implement the declaration of principles between the two countries which was reached in Kuwait last year.

AL-ANBA' adds that the current contacts aim at reaching a formula to set a date for the next meeting for which the two countries proposed separate dates. Oman proposed the end of April while the PDRY suggested next month.

The newspaper speculates that the next meeting will be held in Kuwait if an agreement on its date is reached, and that it will focus on the major issue in the declaration of principles — the border issue.

GCC Measures To Facilitate Journalists' Work

GF231247 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 22 Apr 83 p 1

[Text] The Abu Dhabi paper AL-WAHDAH quotes the Saudi information minister, Muhammad 'abduh Yamani, as saying that new measures will be adopted soon on the freedom of journalists work and on facilitating the movement of Arab journalists working in the GCC countries from one GCC country to another.

He said that these measures are now only awaiting ratification.

SPA: GCC Labor Ministers Meet in Riyadh

LD232112 Riyadh SPA in English 1916 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 23, SPA — The Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) labour and social affairs ministers started their meeting here tonight.

Addressing the meeting Bahraini Labour and Social Affairs Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman [as received] expressed the hope that the gathering would come out with a positive outcome in line with the council's statute which provided for achieving full integration and coordination among the six member states.

He stressed that the GCC unified economic accord provided for working out practical steps which could ensure freedom of movement among the Gulf citizens and implementation of coordinated programmes and legislations governing the recruitment of foreign labour.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara said the council in its capacity as a [word indistinct] for its member states had achieved big strides on the path of cooperation and coordination in all domains.

The council has adopted five means to realise its goals, based on coordinating foreign policy, creating a Gulf common market in addition to defence cooperation unifying legislations on social and youth affairs he added. The aim of the current meeting is to lay down the basis needed for Gulf joint action and to lessen dependence on foreign labour, by recruiting national youth, he said.

Saudi Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ibrahim al-'Anqari stressed the importance of the meeting since it would provide the best chance to achieve better standards in social and labour affairs. He proposed some ideas relating to collective action during the upcoming phase.

"Cooperation between private and governmental humanitarian societies and citizens should be given priority," he said. He called for providing all necessary facilities to citizens in the fields of education and recreations and urged for improvement in administrative systems in member states.

Mr Al-'Anqari also called for legislations which could ensure the safety and stability for all citizens and urged for the exploitation of spare time among citizens especially the Gulf youth and childrens to "protect them from harmful habits."

Gulf Oil Slick Meeting To Convene in Kuwait

GF241440 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 24 Apr (WAKH) — It was officially announced here today that the meeting of the ministerial council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment [ROPME] will be held in Kuwait on Tuesday.

In a statement today, 'Abd al-Latif Zaydan, director of ROPME programs, said country members are being informed of the date of the meeting. He said the meeting will not be held unless country members sign an agreement to commence the capping of the well and to fight the pollution in the Gulf waters.

Zaydan indicated that the organization has sent an inquiry to the National Iranian Oil Company on reports that 7,000 barrels of oil gush from the Nowruz field everyday.

Gulf Dailies on Shultz Middle East Tour

GF241444 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Manama, 24 Apr (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ stressed that the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region, which begins tomorrow, aims at forcing the Arabs to submit to the U.S. and Israeli conditions in solving the Palestinian problem.

The newspaper criticized U.S. policy in the region and the intensification of the campaign launched by the U.S. Administration, under the leadership of President Reagan, personally against the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It said that the United States suddenly introduced the issue of stripping the PLO's representation of the Palestinians

as part of its special program to liquidate the Palestinian issue — a program that will prepare the region for a new wave of violence and instability — and that Washington will also find a new excuse for its intervention and support of Israeli superiority over all the Arab states.

The newspaper called on the Arab countries to confront the U.S. campaign and said that the Arab capitals that Shultz will visit should confront the aggressive U.S. campaign against the PLO and assure its position as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The newspaper noted U.S. President Reagan's statements on keeping the PLO away from any possible negotiations because "no one has elected it" and said: For the U.S. President to be more sincere and true to his convictions, he should respond to the Arab League secretary general's call for holding a referendum sponsored by the United Nations in which the Palestinian people can say who is their sole legitimate representative.

The Qatari paper AR-RAYAH denounced the statements of U.S. President Reagan in which he denied the PLO any role in the negotiations to settle the Arab-Zionist dispute. The paper said that the U.S. President made another mistake in his timing when in his latest statements, he insisted on denying the PLO any role, and when he made these provocative statements a few hours before the departure of Secretary of State Shultz to the region in an effort to rescue the U.S. efforts.

The paper praised the statement made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the same issue. The paper said that the Egyptian president did well in expressing his views, and was successful in timing the statement he made from the Sinai in which he responded to President Reagan and said: "I differ with the U.S. President since the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The paper indicated that the reaction of the president of the largest Arab country at this time has great influence on all Arab and international levels. The paper added that these statements represent a firm and frank Arab and Egyptian message to the U.S. President; it stresses to him that all the efforts he currently exerts to exclude the PLO are not only rejected on the Arab level, but are certainly subject to failure.

Concluding editorially, the paper said: "If Shultz is coming to visit the Arab capitals in an attempt to convince us of what President Reagan said, then let us tell him: Save yourself the trouble of traveling."

The UAE-based daily AL-BAYAN dealt with the tour of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the region tomorrow to hold talks regarding the U.S. view on resolving the Middle East crisis. It said: Before Shultz' visit takes place, it seems that the United States is locked into the Reagan plan despite the fact that it was not approved by the two sides in the struggle — the Palestinians and Israelis.

The paper expressed surprise that all the pressures, efforts, and various forms of sabotage carried out to revive the Reagan plan were directed at only one side, the Palestinians themselves, without addressing the Israeli rejectionist stand, as if Israeli approval of the plan is taken for granted and only the Palestinian seal is needed.

The paper noted that the Israeli position, which rejected the Reagan plan from the start and said: Israel was not satisfied by taking a speculative position on the plan. Rather, it took practical measures to make its withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, which was one of the terms of the Reagan plan, an unacceptable request, and the campaign of confiscating land and taking possession of them escalated, the construction of Israeli settelements was expanded, and finally, the campaigns of terrorism against Arab residents to force them to migrate intensified.

In conclusion, AL-BAYAN wondered if the Arabs, in their talks with Shultz, will be able to return the ball to the Israeli court and has Shultz any reply for the Israeli position on the plan of his President.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Qabus To Brief GCC Leaders

GF241650 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 23 Apr 83 P 1

[Text] Diplomatic sources told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM yesterday that Sultan Qabus will inform GCC leaders this week of the outcome of his meetings and contacts he held with U.S. President Reagan on the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue.

Informed sources said Sultan Qabus returned from Washington convinced that the U.S. President's initiative is a basic and practical step for resolving the Middle East crisis, and that the Sultanate believes in the need to activiate the negotiations between the United States and Jordan.

OMAN

Egyptian Paper Interviews Omani Minister 23 April

GF231212 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (WAKH) — 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, information and youth affairs minister, has noted that there are no foreign forces in his country. He said that the Omani Armed Forces are always ready to defend and protect Oman.

In a statement to the Egyptian paper AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, he said that his country has always sought to establish balanced relations with all countries on the bases of mutual respect for national sovereignty and noninterference in internal affairs.

On the issue of establishing relations with the Soviet Union, he pointed out that these relations would be based on three points: withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan; noninterference in other countries' affairs; and adoption of this move by the GCC since Oman is a member of this organization.

The Omani information minister referred to the Iraq-Iran war. He said that Oman regrets the continuation of this war, which will lead to depleting the energies of the two Muslim neighbor

countries, that is why Oman — in association with the GCC countries — is seeking to end this war in a just way.

SAUDI ARABIA

AL-JAZIRAH Urges PLO To Follow Peace Initiatives

LD231608 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 23 (SPA) — Saudi newspapers urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to adopt a unified stand on the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue, the proposed emergency Arab summit and the current condition of the Arab Palestinian people living under the yoke of the Zionist occupation in occupied Arab territory.

Commenting on recent remarks given by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in which he had claimed that the PLO was the "major obstacle" on the path of achieving a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem the Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH called on the Palestinian leaders to prove that it "is the Israeli intrasigence, and not the organisation, which prevents such a solution by rejecting all international peace initiatives."

"The Arab nation will honour any resolutions adopted by the PLO in line with the organisation's heroic struggle to liberate occupied land and recover Palestinian usurped rights and have their independent state" the paper said.

AL-RIYADH, published here, said Mr Shultz's visit coincided with a statement issued yesterday by the PLO Executive Committee which had left doors open for a dialogue with Jordan on reaching a joint approach to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

The paper deplored the U.S. stand towards the PLO and urged Washington to "adopt a bold stand by recognising the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and allowing the Organisation to participate in any future peace negotiations."

It said the U.S. was fully aware of all keys that could lead to a settlement of the Middle East conflict.

"Moveover, Shultz or any other American leader's visit to the region will not resolve the conflict as long as Israel remains the only party to be heard and cared by the U.S.," the paper added.

The Jidda-based AL-BILAD said Palestinian leaders were free to adopt any practical resolutions that could enable them to recover their inalienable rights including the right to self-determination. "The PLO is the only party to decide on the path which could realise the Palestinian people's aspirations and goals," it added.

The Jidda-based AL-MADINAH said the current crucial situation emanating from the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut provided most convenient opportunities to Israel to "strike at the Syrian forces both in Lebanon and Syria." "It is not difficult to predict that Israeli generals and policy makers under these circumstances will cease [as received] a chance to undertake a new military adventure aiming at imposing a new fait accompli on the Arab nation," it added.

The Jidda-based 'UKAZ called on the U.S. Administration to "exert pressure on Israel to abandon its expansionist policy in the region, so as to restore the Arab nation's lost confidence in the U.S."

The paper welcomed the U.S. decision to continue peace efforts in the region despite the bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut. It deplored the delay on the part of the U.S. to find a suitable solution to ensure the withdrawal of the Israeli troops instead of confining to mere condemnation.

Riyadh Radio Denies Coup Attempt Report

GF240452 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Editorial Report] Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic at 0415 GMT on 24 April in its press review carried the following headline among others without further elaboration: "An Official Source Denies a False News Report on an Alleged Coup d'Etat in the Kingdom."

More on Saudi Coup Denial

GF240602 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Lebanese Phalangist Party paper AL-'AMAL carried a report quoting the French weekly magazine "VSD". This magazine quoted a Western intelligence agent on details of an alleged coup d'etat, supposedly masterminded by Soviet intelligence in cooperation with extremist internal elements. This plot was allegedly discovered in time by U.S. intelligence in cooperation with the Saudi security organs. The report added that a wave of arrests followed, and those arrested included hundreds of citizens in the larger cities of the Kingdom as well as some foreigners of Palestinian, Yemeni, and European nationality.

A responsible source announced that such a news report is merely an example of fabricated lies that many publications have been paid to circulate from time to time. These planned and cheap allegations, which are always planted and supposedly uncovered, are designed to achieve ignoble goals that all true citizens surely know. This report — which is clearly untrue — reveals the level or standards reached by some publications in the reporting of lies and of false allegations.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives 24 April

GF241054 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim arrived in Riyadh today on a brief visit to the Kingdom. Upon arrival, he was received by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, in addition to a number of officials.

The Jordanian foreign minister told SPA that he carries a message from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan to his brother-His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East region. He added that after the conclusion of his visit to the Kingdom, he will leave for a number of other Arab countries with similar messages for their leaders.

King Fahd's Meeting With Algerian Envoy Reported
LD241203 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1057 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Apr (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at 1320 today received in his office Mr Lakhdar Lebrahimi, the envoy of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah 'ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard.

The visit of the Algerian envoy is in the framework of a tour which includes Syria and Jordan.

King Fahd Dismisses Information Minister
LD241846 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1718 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Decree No A335 dated 24 April 1983.

We, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, having taken cognizance of Royal Decree No A/236 dated 8.10.1395 [19 July 1975) and of the Article No 8 of the Council of Ministers issued according to Royal Decree No 38 dated 22.10.1377 [2 August 1957], and which was amended by Royal Decree No 14 dated 14.7.1384 [27 April 1964], hereby order the following:

1. Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani shall be relieved of his post.

2. The deputy prime minister shall implement this decree. Decree No A336 dated 24 April 1983.

We, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, having taking cognizance of Article No 8 of the Council of Ministers issued according to Royal Decree No 38 dated 2 August 1957 and amended by Royal Decree No 14 dated 27 April 1964 hereby decree:

1. 'Ali Hasan ash-Sha'ir shall be appointed minister of information.

2. The deputy prime minister shall implement this decree.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives 25 April
LD250940 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0935 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Apr (SPA) — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh at noon today on a short visit to the Kingdom. He was welcomed on arrival by Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and several other officials.

Mubarak Speech on Sinai Return Anniversary
NC231106 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Speech by Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Al-'Arish in Sinai on the anniversary of the return of Sinai — live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate, brothers and sisters, I would like to begin by congratulating you on the first anniversary of the beloved Sinai liberation. Sinai suffered under occupation for approximately 15 years and was completely restored on 25 April 1982. When we recall Sinai and its liberation, we must look back and remember all the martyrs who worked to liberate Sinai and return it to beloved Egypt. I call on you brothers and sisters to stand up and observe 1 minute of mourning for the souls of our martyrs. [applause]

When we speak about the Sinai liberation or its return to mother Egypt, we must not be ungrateful. This must be associated with the name of late President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, who sacrificed everything for the return of this land to its people. This man, may God have mercy on his soul, is the hero of the decision of war and peace. He is the hero of the decision of the October War. He is the one who launched initiative in order to steer the ship to safety. He is the one who consummated the Camp David accord frameworks, and he is the one who eventually reached the peace treaty in implementation of the first framework of the Camp David accord. [Mubarak then tells the television crew] Television. It is enough, the press.

[Announcer] Thus, President Muhammad Anwar, [the announcer then corrects himself] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak embraces his people in love and loyalty. We will meet you at later meetings, dear listeners and so long. We go back to our studios in the radio station. May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

Mubarak Urges Palestinian-Jordanian Accord
NC231607 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] At the conclusion of his visit to Al-'Arish, President Mubarak said:

[Begin recording] Development and reconstruction are proceeding very well. I saw As-Salam City. I saw the Al-Masa'id quarter. There are achievements in addition to the building boom in the town. This gives rise to great hope in the future. The people are very serious in their work and in production. There has been great progress since I last visited Al-'Arish. I wish them success. [end recording]

Asked about his upcoming talks with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and the current Middle East situation, President Mubarak said: We are still advising the Palestinians to be realistic and to coordinate with King Husayn to form an association with him, so the United States may speed up the settlement process.

Asked if Egypt still recognizes the PLO as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative, President Mubarak said: Up to now and according to the Rabat resolutions, the PLO is the sole representative.

Mubarak Attends Sinai Liberation Army Ceremony
NC241133 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak this morning attended the ceremony held by the Armed Forces in Nasr City on the occasion marking the first anniversary of the Sinai liberation. Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah attended the celebration. President Mubarak arrived at the site of the celebrations at 1000, where units from various branches of the Army were lined up to salute him. He was received by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd Rabb an-Nabi Hafiz, Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Sayyid Hamdi and senior officers of the Armed Forces.

President Mubarak and his aides then proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier while the band played national music. He was received by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, People's Assembly Speaker Dr Sufi Abu Talib, Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Secretary General of the Presidency 'Izz ad-Din al-Mukhtar,and Chief Chamberlain Sa'id Hamzah. President Mubarak put a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and read a Koranic verse for the souls of Egypt's martyrs.

President Mubarak then put a wreath on the tomb of late President Anwar as-Sadat and read a Koranic verse for his pure soul.

Minister Cites Mubarak on Foreign Policy
NC231937 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Al-'Arish, 23 Apr (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak once again declared that Egypt is exerting every effort for solving the Palestinian question and that it will not abandon the question or the Palestinian people. The president affirmed that Egypt has made and is continuing to make sacrifices in word and deed for the sake of the Palestinian question.

This was stated by Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif following the president's meeting today with the popular and executive leaderships in Al-'Arish.

Ash-Sharif said the president reaffirmed the need for establishing relations and agreement between Jordan and the PLO and for making preparations for these relations, and he also emphasized the importance of the time factor in this field.

President Mubarak expressed the hope that the Palestinian brothers would think in a logical way to preserve the question.

Ash-Sharif said the president warned at the meeting of the seriousness of continuing the building of settlements in the West

Bank and Gaza and the effect this will have on the Palestinian people's rights and on solving their question.

Ash-Sharif said President Mubarak stressed Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accords which were signed by Egypt, Israel, and the United States. The president outlined that Egypt respects its international treaties and charters, noting that the Camp David initiative includes provisions which are superior to other initiatives.

Ash-Sharif said the president outlined that peace does not restrict Egyptian willpower or decisionmaking and that it does not mean relaxation but means having Armed Forces capable of protecting peace and the people's gains.

The president also explained that Egypt started building on the basis of peace and that it has proceeded with peace. Although the beginning of peace was difficult, it was finally achieved and the land returned to Egypt.

On relations with Israel, the president said they are natural relations and that Egypt is dealing with Israel on a daily basis.

Safwat ash-Sharif said the president spoke about integration between Egypt and Sudan, affirming the importance of action to achieve integration with firm steps. The president also affirmed that Egypt adheres to the nonaligned policy and that it does not allow bases to be set up on its territory because Egypt is a nonaligned country.

The president added that Egypt has special relations with the United States but that there is nothing preventing the establishment of normal relations with the Soviet Union, without allowing it to interfere in our domestic affairs.

Regarding the method for domestic action, the president explained the need for continuous work to bring Egypt to the shore of safety and achieve the Egyptian people's economic and social development. He affirmed that increasing production is the way to progress and prosperity.

Concluding his statement, Safwat ash-Sharif said President Mubarak explained that the law, and not the ruler, is the sword of democracy, and expressed regret because some writers are distorting Egypt's honor and dignity.

Report on Mubarak Speech Interruption Scorned

NC232202 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA) — The KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY has picked up a BBC report today saying that at his meeting with the Sinai people's leaderships today President Mubarak received some complaints and that he ordered the television cameras out of the hall and that Cairo radio interrupted the relay of the president's speech.

The agency made too much of the matter, depicting it as if it were an event for cheering and diatribes, while Egypt and with it all the Arabs were celebrating the 1st anniversary of the Sinai's liberation.

The fact is that the meeting President Husni Mubarak held today in Al-'Arish with officials and leaders of the National Democratic Party in Sinai was a closed one like all similar meetings which the president has been holding with party leaders in other parts of Egypt. This is because such meetings are held to review problems, exchange views, and search for solutions. They are not occasions for delivering speeches. When discussing the masses' problems and requirements, Egypt — which has opened its mind and heart to all views — need not interrupt a radio transmission if it were previously scheduled to relay the debate live.

Comment on Coming Visit by George Shultz

Mubarak on Visit

NC231854 Cairo MENA in English 1839 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Al-'Arish, Apr 23 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak said here today that he is looking forward to receiving U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to find out what steps Washington is planning to take about the Middle East problems.

"I believe it is very important, even essential, for the American image that the Middle East problems should be resolved," he said.

Speaking with foreign correspondents, the president called for speedy Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and said the United States should use its influence for this purpose.

Shultz is due in Cairo on Monday.

Mubarak Comments Further

NC241459 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has welcomed U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's forthcoming visit to Cairo. He said: We hope he will be able to help the efforts to achieve an agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

After the conclusion of the demonstration by the Air Defense Forces this afternoon, President Mubarak replied to a question by journalists on the importance Egypt is giving to the talks Shultz will hold in the area and what his excellency expects Shultz to present during the talks. He said: We look forward to meeting him. We also welcome him as does every individual in the area, and I hope that Shultz will be able to help the peace efforts to achieve an agreement between Lebanon and Israel that will lead to an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. It is important for the whole area that this agreement be reached and that the withdrawal take place in order to protect the United States' image.

The president added: We appreciate the visit. Our opinion on the Reagan plan is known. I hope his initiative will continue so as to reach a comprehensive settlement.

Asked if he believes Reagan's initiative will collapse in the event Shultz fails to achieve an agreement on the withdrawal of forces

during his visit, President Mubarak said: No. I do not believe that it will collapse in view of President Reagan's insistence on upholding his initiative. I believe and hope that progress will be achieved.

'Ali on Shultz' Tour

NC222127 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 22 Apr (MENA) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has commented on U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' coming Middle East tour. He said Egypt welcomes every step taken by the United States to speed up the withdrawal of the Israeli and foreign forces from Lebanon. He added that Egypt believes this withdrawal will encourage the other parties to join the negotiations and establish a comprehensive peace.

'Ali said that during the talks it will hold with the U.S. secretary, Egypt will affirm the need for a quick solution to the Lebanese problem because this will pave the way for starting the peace negotiations.

Referring to reports that the PLO intends to resume the talks with Jordan, 'Ali said Egypt hopes Jordan and the Palestinians will coordinate their stands so they may make use of the time factor and reach an agreement on joining the peace talks.

'Sources' Outline Stance

NC231520 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA) — Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources have described U.S. President Ronald Reagan's decision to send Secretary of State George Shultz to the Middle East — where he will first visit Cairo — as an unequivocable U.S. desire for realizing an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, which is a fundamental condition for the resumption of the peace march.

MENA has learned that Egypt will emphasize the following points to the U.S. Secretary of State, who will arrive in Cairo Monday:

1. The necessity of Israel's speedy and immediate withdrawal from Lebanon as a fundamental condition for resuming the peace march in addition to trying to return Lebanese sovereignty to all Lebanese territory.

2. The continuation of the Israeli settlement-building policy is a matter contradicting all the international laws and impeding the peace process. What is important and necessary is that the United States take a clear stance toward this Israeli settlement policy.

3. The inhumane Israeli practices against the Palestinian people on their land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip do not encourage at all negotiations and pushing forward the peace process and these practices should be stopped immediately.

4. The significance of the bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States in the various domains on the basis that Egypt is the bulwark of peace in the area.

Shultz's coming visit to Cairo is his first visit to Egypt. The visit has been described as very important at present, particularly in the light of the current Middle East situation.

Diplomatic quarters in Cairo believe it is impossible for the U.S. President to send his secretary of state so quickly to the area unless there were possible opportunities and available conditions that would make the visit yield something with regard to the Lebanese issue.

MENA Previews Talks

NC241704 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 24 Apr (MENA) — MENA has learned that Egypt will emphasize to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz its stand on the Palestinian issue — a stand based on the fact that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is the key to the solution of the Palestinian issue. Egypt will also emphasize to him that the Palestinians must participate in the expanded discussions for the establishment of peace and that action be taken to prevent Israel from continuing to build settlements and to halt its inhuman measures in the West Bank.

As for the Lebanese issue, the Egyptian stand is based on the fact that the United States must play an intensive role to bring about the unconditional withdrawal of the Isreli occupation forces from Lebanon as a basic and necessary condition for the resumption of the efforts for the establishment of a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. In addition, the United States should fulfill its commitments with regard to this peace.

It has also been learned that the discussions between the Egyptian and U.S. sides will deal with Egyptian-Israeli relations, including the Tabah problem and its solution in accordance with the 25 April 1982 agreement between Egypt and Israel, which was also signed by the United States.

It has been learned that the discussions will also deal with bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States in all fields and the importance of bolstering them, especially in the economic and political domains, on the grounds that Egypt is the bulwark of peace in the Middle East.

It is known that President Husni Mubarak will receive George Shultz on Tuesday morning.

It has been decided to postpone the expanded session of talks between the Egyptian side led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the U.S. side led by Shultz until 1130 on Tuesday instead of Monday evening.

It has been also learned that Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Shultz will hold a meeting, following the arrival of the U.S. guest tomorrow, during which 'Ali will listen to what Shultz has brought with him.

Shultz will also meet tomorrow with the U.S. ambassadors to Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Lebanon, and Egypt to review and assess the situation in the Middle East in preparation

for the tour which Shultz is to make in the area.

The Egyptian side to the Egyptian-U.S. talks, which are to take place at the Foreign Ministry and which will be chaired by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, will include Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali; Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Dr Ashraf Ghurbal; Ambassador Salah Basyuni, director of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department; Ambassador Sayyid Abu Zayd; Ambassador Ra'uf Ghunaym; Ministers Plenipotentiary Fu'ad Yusuf and Ahmad Abu al-Ghayt, and a number of assistants.

The U.S. side will include U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton, U.S. presidential envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib, and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Nicholas Veliotes.

On Tuesday evening, Kamal Hasan 'Ali will hold a dinner banquet in honor of the U.S. guest and the delegation accompanying him, during which speeches will be exchanged in which each party will present its views on the Middle East situation.

Monte Carlo: Ghali Urges 'Arafat To Act Positively

JN221446 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has called on PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to act positively before next fall, at which time the U.S. presidential election campaign will begin. Ghali, who was talking to the [London-based magazine] AT-TADAMUN [solidarity], said that should the Palestinians fail to move soon, the negotiations based on U.S. President Reagan's plan would be postponed until after the U.S. elections. Ghali pointed out that Egypt believes the only way to reactivate the situation and start the negotiations lies in the PLO's giving some kind of a mandate to Jordan.

Cultural, Scientific Agreement With USSR Signed

NC231800 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Cairo, 23 Apr (MENA) — The executive program of a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement was signed today between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Soviet Union.

The program was signed for Egypt by Ambassador 'Ali Shawqi al-Hadidi, head of the Foreign Ministry's Cultural Relations and Technical Cooperation Department, and for the Soviet side byAmbassador Yuriy Kirichenko, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries Department.

The program includes exchanging scholarships, cooperation in cultural and arts fields, scientists' visits for joint research work, and delegating Soviet instructors for work at Egyptian institutes.

The program also includes promoting cooperation and ties between Egyptian and Soviet universities, encouraging the teaching of Russian and Arabic languages, and cooperating in the fields of information, tourism, public health, and medical science.

Ambassador Kirichenko arrived in Cairo last Monday heading a delegation from the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The delegation had talks with the Egyptian side led by Ambassador 'Ali Shawqi al-Hadidi and including experts in education, culture, youth affairs, and information. The talks covered relations between the two countries in these fields.

USSR Official on Protocol

JN241926 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] A Soviet diplomatic source in Cairo has said that the signing of a cultural protocol between Egypt and the USSR confirms the existing rapprochement between the two countries, but — as the source put it — this should not be taken as a possibility for normalizing their diplomatic relations which have been frozen since September 1981.

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Communiques Issued on 21-24 Apr Operations

Number 1,069

JN221634 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,069 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 22 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Whenever the criminal Iranian rulers persist in their aggressive expansionist stands against Iraq and the Arab nation, demonstrate their vicious intentions and black hatred against our struggler people and whenever they persist in inflicting harm on our people, they will find the brave soldiers of Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah lying in wait for them in order to inflict further defeats and losses on them.

The following are the results of the operations which took place last night and today:

1. One of our forward units yesterday raided enemy positions and troop concentrations in the area opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector. The force, using all types of weapons and with the support of intensive artillery shelling, succeeded in killing 198 Iranians, wounding others, and destroying quantities of light- and medium-caliber weapons and one 106-mm gun. Our other units in the same sector managed to destroy one vehicle, two stockpiles of hardware, and one observation post and to capture quantities of medium- and light-caliber weapons and various types of war materiel left behind by the enemy when its forces were utterly defeated in the recent Faqih battles. All the captured weapons were transported to the rear in serviceable condition.

2. Our forward formations attacked small enemy troop concentrations in front of our positions in the central operational sector, killing 16, wounding others, and destroying a stockpile of hardware. An enemy patrol tried to approach one of our forward units in the same sector. Our unit attacked the enemy patrol, killing one, wounding others, and capturing an enemy soldier, who was evacuated to the rear. The rest took to their heels.

3. One observation was destroyed east of Basra.

4. All day today the spiteful Khomeyniite clique intermittently shelled Basra, Mandali, and Khanaqin and their environs. The bestial shelling caused some damage to civilian establishments in these towns.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 April 1983

Number 1,070

JN231628 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,070 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 23 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing to fight the covetous aggressors so that the Iraqis' heads remain high and their foreheads radiant with the glowing light of God, justice, and principles. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. Our forward units pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the Maysan operational sector, killing 23, wounding others, and destroying 4 vehicles, 1 infantry position, 1 hardware stockpile, and 1 observation post. One of our combat patrols managed to carry out an operation against the enemy positions, killing six and woudning others in the same sector.

2. One of our forward units ambushed and clashed with a group of enemy troops opposite our positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing five, wounding others, and capturing light weapons.

3. One of our forward units sighted and pounded an enemy concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing six and destroying one infantry position and one observation post.

4. One excavator was destroyed east of Basra.

5. Today the criminal Khomeyniite regime shelled Basra and Mandali and their envorons. The savage enemy shelling injured two civilians and one woman in Basra and caused some damage to a number of civilian establishments in the two cities.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 April 1983

Number 1,071

JN241538 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA) — Iraqi forces have killed 16 Iranian soldiers, wounded a number of others, and destroyed 1 observation post, 3 vehicles, 2 106-mm guns, and 1 stockpile of hardware. Iraqi military communique No 1,071 issued here tonight noted that the Iranian artillery today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah and their environs, causing damage to some civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,071 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In defense of Iraq and its right to sovereignty, security, and independence, our brave Armed Forces continued their successful activities against the Iranian forces which persist in evil, expansion, and aggression. The following are the results for yesterday and today:

1. Our forward units, using various types of weapons, pounded an enemy troop concentration in the central operational sector, killing 12 and wounding a number of others. Four enemy soldiers were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the same sector.

2. Two vehicles and one 106-mm gun and one stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. The vicious Khomeyniite clique today shelled Mandali and Zurbatiyah and their environs, causing some damage to some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 April 1983

President Greets Air Force Commander
JN241554 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq is very proud of its Air Force eagles who demonstrated a peerless, outstanding heroism in the war against the Iranian enemy. The president, who was exchanging congratulations with the commander of the Air Force and air defenses today on the 52d anniversary of the Air Force, said that the Iraqi pilots recorded brilliant feats both in the battles against the Iranian enemy and deep inside Iranian territory. The president affirmed that the Iraqi Armed Forces acheived splendid results in the war, adding that Iraq hopes that its men will record greater victories in the future.

The commander of the Air Force and air defenses presented the president with a model of an Iraqi fighter plane made of the wreakage of an Iranian plane that was downed during the war, as an expression of the spiritual ties between the president and his sons, the heroes of the Air Force and air defenses.

Chief of Staff on Recent Battles With Iran
JN232003 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — Iraqi Chief of Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal has said that the Iranian forces [words indistinct]. In an interview aired by Baghdad television tonight, the chief of staff added [words indistinct] about 120,000 fighters.

He indicated that the enemy offensive was comprehensive and was introduced by a violent artillery shelling in which 16 Iranian artillery battalions took part. Meanwhile, he added, other enemy artillery units intensively shelled Ash-Shib and the northern and the eastern Basra operational sectors for camouflage purposes.

He stressed that enemy's attacking force had not managed to obtain a foothold except in some forward positions [saraya amamiyah] in Iraqi territories. However, the Iraqi forces regained these positions in a counterattack during which our forces destroyed most of the enemy forces, pursued the defeated remnants, and captured the rest.

The chief of staff added: On the 11th of this month the IV Aramy Corps' forces began a counterattack and the battle with the enemy continued in the form of attack and retreat for 5 days. The Iraqi forces then launched a comprehensive and final offensive during which the enemy forces were completely destroyed or expelled from all the positions in which they had managed to gain footholds. The enemy retreated after sustaining massive losses in men and materiel. The known enemy losses amounted to 14,980 killed, large numbers captured or wounded, and various equipment and weapons seized.

Army Commander Interviewed by AL-JUMHURIYAH
JN230940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — The commander of the IV Army Corps has stated that the Iraqi Armed Forces foiled the recent Iranian aggression in the Maysan operational theater with capability and in record time in spite of the huge human waves which the Khomeyniite regime sent into the battle. In an interview with AL-JUMAHURIYAH today, he added that far this battle the Iranian regime massed its best units comprising the 16th and 21st Divisions, the 55th Paratroop Brigade, the 58th Special Forces Brigade, the 34th and 84th Brigades, other brigades, and 25 brigades of Khomeyni guards.

The staff major general who is in command of the IV Army Corps explained that the Iraqi Armed Forces destroyed a large part of these forces and captured many while the remaining forces fled in the direction of the Iranian territory. He added that the Iranian forces failed to control 1 inch of the beloved Iraqi soil in spite of the huge human waves used in this battle.

On tactics adopted by the Iranian forces in this battle, the commander said that they were tactics stemming from rancor and hatred and a thirst for blood.

As was the case during the previous battle, the Faqih battle was characterized with the capability and courage of the Iraqi soldier and his complete awareness and readiness to offer sacrifices to prevent the aggressors from sullying Iraqi soil.

The commander of the IV Army Corps concluded by saying that any new Iranian aggression will be destroyed in the same manner as the Iranian forces were destroyed in Ash-Shib, At-Tib, and Faqih.

President Confers With Islamic Committee Chairman
JN241616 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA) — President Saddam Husayn receivedhere today Dr Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi, chairman of the peace and reconciliation committee created by the Islamic popular conference. The meeting was attended by Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of the Presidential Office, and 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

In a statement to INA after the meeting, Dr ad-Dawalibi said that he urged the president to proceed with his peace efforts with Iran desptie the Iranian Government's refusal to receive the peace committee. He pointed out that he also urged the president to exert efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria.

Dr ad-Dawalibi added: We ought to work hard to enable everybody, including Iran, Syria, and Lebanon, to impose peace and consolidate the ties between the region's governments and people on the one hand and the fraternal Arab leaders in the Arabian Peninsula on the other. He affirmed that he sensed a sincere desire and positive response from President Saddam Husayn.

Chairman Holds News Conference

JN231754 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — Dr Ma'ruf ad-Dawalibi, chairman of the peace and reconciliation committee stemming from the Islamic popular conference which recently concluded its work here, has said that the conference managed to unite the Islamic peoples through their popular leaders in order to settle the war between Iran and Iraq without being biased to one against the other.

In a press conference he held here today, Dr ad-Dawalibi said that the Islamic popular conference, which recently concluded its work in Baghdad, is part of a worldwide movement wishing peace for mankind, not only in the Islamic countries but throughout the world. He added that the peace and reconciliation committee wants the Islamic peoples to cooperate with the diplomatic leaderships to impose peace on the gravest world problem, that is, the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran.

On the next measures to be taken by the committee toward Iran's rejction of peace, Dr ad-Dawalibi said: If the committee fails, a followup committee will meet and call for the conference to reconvene after setting the date and venue of this meeting so that final decisions can be adopted. These measures should not take more than 1 month and the conference should not reconvene in Iraq. He stressed: We will go to Iran if it offers to host the conference.

Dr ad-Dawalibi said that the peace and reconciliation committee cannot embark on reconciliation, hearing the points of disagreement between Iraq and Iran or pronouncing its judgment before a cease-fire goes into effect. He added: Our task as acommittee hinges on acceptance of the principle of mediation.

Iraqi-USSR Cooperation Committee Meets

JN241350 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Apr (INA) — Subhi Yasin, industry and minerals minister and head of the Iraqi side to the permanent committee for economic and technical cooperation with the USSR,met this morning with Mordvinov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and deputy head of the USSR side to the committee, and the accompanying delegation. Mordvinov and Yasin expressed the desire of the USSR and Iraq to promote joint cooperation relations in various spheres on an integrated basis within the work of the permanent cooperation committee.

The committee met at deputy level to review the course of implementing the programs listed in the minutes of the previous session in the fields of energy, agriculture, fishery, and the training of cadres. The subcommittee is scheduled to resume its meetings in Baghdad to discuss topics listed on the agenda of the 13th session, which will be held in Moscow in June at ministerial level.

Foreign Minister Comments on Oil Slick

JN231244 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime Minister and foreign minister, has held the Iranian regime responsible for all the dangers that threaten the region, including the danger resulting from the pollution of the Gulf waters. 'Aziz added that the Iranian regime seeks, through its exposed methods, to reverse facts and exploit the legitimate anxiety of the Gulf countries' citizens to cover up for its responsibility.

Tariq 'Aziz explained that the problem facing the Gulf countries as a result of the gushing of Iranian oil into the Gulf is not a technical problem. He said that it is one of the consequences of the war which Iran insists on fanning and prolonging in violation of the will and interests of the peoples in the region and international public opinion.

In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz stressed that even if this problem is dealt with now, it could recur at any time as long as military operations continue. He added: That is why this problem cannot be dealt with from a technical point of view only. The technical parties which have studied this problem and exerted commendable efforts in defining its nature, consequences, and technical methods to combat it are themselves incapable of formulating the guidelines for settling this problem, which involves very delicate political and miltiary considerations.
Tairq 'Aziz added that this issue must first be tackled within a political framework after which the technical parties would carry out the role which is required of them.

The foreign minister refuted the Iranian regime's claims that it has shown flexibility in tackling this issue, stressing: Can we consider it flexibility if the Iranian regime repairs its own oil well, preserves its wealth which has been gushing to the Gulf waters, and protects its shores from the pollution? He added: The real flexibility lies in Iraq's position. Iran insists on attacking Iraq and on inflicting losses on Iraq's economic establishments. This, the foreign minister added, has deprived Iraq from its natural right to export its oil via the Gulf ports. Nevertheless, Iraq has accepted a limited cease-fire under the auspices of the United Nations or the Security Council to repair the oil well.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister explained that Iraq adopted this stand in response to the appeal addressed by the Arab brothers in the Gulf and out of its eagerness to preserve their interests although Iraq is well aware of the fact that this stand would entail sacrifices and would reflect negatively on the

balance of power in the struggle with Iran. He emphasized that this is the most Iraq can do at a time when it is waging a vicious war against an enemy which is sparing no effort to harm Iraq.

The foreign minister said: Had it not been for the interests of our brothers in the Gulf and for Iraq's eagerness to preserve these interests, Iraq would have — and this is its natural right — insisted on preventing the Iranian regime from repairing the oil well in order to inflict the gravest losses on this regime and its interests in retaliation for its aggressive policy.

The Iraqi minister said that the stand of the Iranian delegation during these talks was replete with lies and maneuvers. He added that the Iranian delegation had turned down the natural, reasonable proposals submitted to solve the problem and insisted on tackling it unilaterally, which demonstrated the Iranian regime's intentions to exploit this for other purposes.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the Iranian delegation asked for cessation of military operations in the area to enable the regime to repair the oil well without this regime giving any guarantees that it would not exploit the issue for other purposes. He added that the delegation's request was strange and illogical, based on overt extortion.

Tariq 'Aziz added that the Iranian regime tried to drive a wedge between the Iraqi delegation and the other delegations as part of a vicious plan to dismember the Arabs' stand in the Gulf, but all the Iranian maneuvers collapsed.

The foreign minister said that the Arab delegations and officials in the Arab Gulf are aware that the Iranian regime is solely responsible for the problem. He added that the unity of fate and interests among the Arab Gulf states is indivisible, stressing that the honorable Arabs in the area will not allow Iran to fish in troubled waters.

The foreign minister described the Iranian regime's claims of its readiness to supply the Gulf states with potable water in case the desalination plants are disrupted by pollution as an exposed propagandist attitude. He added that the Iranian regime causes problems and then claims to be trying to remedy them.
Tariq 'Aziz said that instead of exporting water to the Gulf countries, the Iranian regime must stop exporting trouble, chaos, and destruction to them. e explained that the method proposed by the Iranian regime to provide the Gulf countries with water reveals its propagandist designs since it is impossible to provide such quantities of water by vessels. He said that the only method for providing water to a large number of citizens in an uninterrupted manner is by opening a canal or installing pipelines. This is something Iraq can offer to its brothers in the Gulf countries from the Shatt al-'Arab waters.

Tariq 'Aziz said that Iraq is ready to supply its brothers in the Arab Gulf countries with water immediately, or in the future, in emergency cases or normal ones and in accordance with a method that would be agreed.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the only practical and serious manner to deal with this problem is by discussing the state of war which has been raging for the past 3 years and which poses grave threats to the entire region, and by forcing the Iranian regime to halt this war, especially since its illusions of achieving a military victory over the Arabs have been shatterred, as has been confirmed by the recent battles in eastern Maysan.

Azeri Commentary Scores Iran Over Oil Spill

GF220926 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, it is a well-known fact that when this tragic war began Khomeyni said: "We applaud this war and regard it as a blessing." This means, according to what the impostor said, war is something good.

The progress of the imposed Khomeyni war, however, has proved that whatever this impostor said is unfounded. This bloody and tragic war has proved that, contrary to the sweet dreams of Khomeyni and his supporters, the fighting is not a blessing of God. It is one against the interests of humans oriented toward God. It is one which brings nothing but death, destruction, blood, and vagrancy. Nonetheless, Khomeyni has been endeavoring to describe the war during the past 32 months as a blessing of God.

The deceitful and confused Tehran rulers continue to do or say things as they please, even 32 months after the start of the war. They continue to talk about divine blessing and even move to describe the conversion of the Nowruz and Ardashir oil wells into a burning inferno and the spilling of the underground wealth of the Iranians — that is to say the black [words indistinct] — into the waters of the Gulf as divine mercy and blessing.

The present and future wealth of the Iranians is gushing into the waters of the Gulf and thus is being lost, but the mullahs who always consider their own interests first are tackling this problem in the same way. According to what they claim, the blasting of Nowruz and Ardashir oil wells is a divine blessing since the wells are situated within the war zone and are therefore useless. And since the rulers in Qom and Tehran have not been able to use the oil from the wells, God has sent down His blessing and opened a new door of mercy and blessing for them.

The result of the destruction of the wells has raised the question of pollution of the waters of the Arab states situated in the Gulf. The gushing of oil into the waters of the Gulf has threatened the existence of marine life. According to reports, the shores of the Arab states in the Gulf are lower than Iran's coast and thus the oil slick is drifting toward the Arab coastlines. This brings to light the fact that marine life in the waters of the Arab states will move toward Iranian waters in order to avoid the dangerous effects of oil.

Yes, they say this is mercy, a divine blessing. In fact, the head of Iran's southern fisheries department has stated in confidence: The spilling of oil into the sea is of no importance whatever. Oil is of course useful, but as a result of its spilling into the waters of the Gulf, the marine life of the Arab states in the region is moving

toward Iranian waters and this will treble the capacity of the southern fisheries department, with the help of God. [sentence indistinct]

The mullahs regime is interested only in stealing. The members of this regime think of nothing else. They think only of plundering the underground resources and wealth of the Iranian people [words indistinct]. This is why they regard the spilling of oil as [words indistinct] and move to concern themselves with the catch of marine life belonging to Arab states in the Gulf, describing this in the meantime as [words indistinct].

We state therefore with all the meaning of the word that the world of the supporters of Khomeyni is devoid of computerized thinking and logic [komputeri akl va mantik]; it is only concerned with petty calculations. But our century is not one of [word indistinct].

Minister Leaves For Kabul National Day Festival

JN231657 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Apr (INA) — Iraqi Justice Minister Dr Mundhir Ibrahim left for Kabul this evening to represent Iraq in the Afghan national day celebrations on Wednesday.

Jordanian-Palestinian Committee To Continue
JN220928 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Apr 83 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Amman, SAWT ASH-SHA'B — It has been learned from an informed source that the suspension of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, in light of the Jordanian Government's 10 April statement, will not affect the meetings of the Jordanian- Palestinian joint committee on bolstering the people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland.

Amman Press Comments on Arab Summit, Shultz
JN230816 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Press review]

[Text] Today's papers dealt with three major topics: The proposed Arab summit; Shultz's visit to the region; and the results of the PLO Executive Committee meeting.

Under the headline "An Arab Summit, Why Now?" SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: When the Kingdom of Morocco extended an invitation to convene an emergency Arab summit and proposed mid-April as a date for this conference, the summit was supposed to discuss a plan of action which would be within the pan-Arab trend toward the political option that would effectively and speedily deal with the state of affairs in the Arab world and the Palestinian cause in particular.

There was semi-unanimity to convene the summit for the discussion of any plan of action on which the Jordanian and Palestinian sides would agree, and consequently, emerge with an Arab positionthat would put pressure on the peace efforts and exploit the available capabilities to provide the mechanism of implemenation of the Arab peace plan.

However, the differences of opinion, the pressure, and the suspension of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks returned the state of affairs to the one which existed at the Fes summit, and to the same positions that had frozen the Arab political solution and made the convocation of an emergency Arab summit a waste of time and effort.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: The summit needs a definite and clear plan of action that would interact with the developments and take into cosideration negative and positive indications in order to serve the principles adopted by the Arabs for a comprehensive settlement in the region and the just solution to the Palestinian cause.

The Arab summit needs to list its priorities on logical basis and to adopt practical and courageous steps in its moves toward the common objective, whether by exploiting the U.S. initiative or any other opportunity that is available and which would halt the Israeli policy of imposing faits accomplis in the occupied territories, which if accomplished, would be difficult to eliminate.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: The Palestinian and Arab causes do not need more summit resolutions, or any more time wasted. They need quick action and complete awareness of what is taking place in this region.

From this premise, we believe that the convocation of the summit, at this stage in particular, will not lead to any result as long as the peace option remains within the framework that was defined by the recent Fes summit, and as long as each party has chosen the course defining its action and efforts. Any summit that is not well-prepared, does not have a sound concept and a common ground for action and will have results that harm the nation and its causes.

In an editorial headlined: "What Is Behind Shultz," the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: U.S. Secretary of State Shultz is scheduled to begin a Middle East tour tomorrow to speed up the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon and to convey U.S. President Reagan's insistence on reaching an overall settlement in the area, as U.S. sources put it.

Various speculations that were voiced in the past, prior to the announcement of the tour, spoke of the possibility of reaching a quick agreement to solve the Lebanese question. But, later, U.S. envoy Habib dismissed all these speculations. It was established, after the 33d round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations, that these negotiations have been stumbling vis-a-vis the unac ceptable Israeli conditions.

Continuing its editorial, AR-RA'Y says: Thus, it is noted that Shultz's Middle East tour has been prompted by the following:

1. The failure of envoy Habib, to date, to make Israel accept reasonable guarantees in return for its withdrawal from Lebanon. This means that the U.S. Administration has thus far failed to prove its credibility there.

2. The overt definace voiced by Begin to President Reagan in response to President Reagan's message to Damascus in which he explained that his peace process aims at bringing about the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Golan as well as from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In his defiance, the Israeli prime minister said that there will be no withdrawal from the Arab land. Furthermore, and in a subsequent step, Begin gave instructions to leak reports on the imminent enactment of the Israeli law in the Golan. British papers have described this defiance as a slap directed at President Reagan.

3. The ceaseless escalation of building Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian land, which primarily aims at devouring the land, voiding Reagan's initiative of its contents, and weakening confidence in its usefulness.

4. The negative results caused by U.S. impotence vis-a-vis the Israeli challenges in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian land have been the factors that have frozen the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

Under such circumstances, the following basic fact is established: Israeli defiance and U.S. impotence are both responsible for the delay in proving U.S. credibility in Lebanon.

AR-RA'Y concludes its editorial saying: Hence, the following question is posed: Will Shultz's mission in the region focus on confronting Israeli defiance and remedying U.S. impotence and thereby proving the U.S. credibility? Or will it attempt to persuade the Arabs to practice self-restraint vis-a-vis Israeli defiance and U.S. impotence, and show blind confidence in this credibility? The answer to this question lies with Shultz. Only after the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state in the region can the real nature of his mission be known. And, only after his arrival can one tell if his mission is of anesthetization and appeasement.

On its part, the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Yesterday, the PLO Executive Committee ended its 2-day meeting in Tunis, without issuing anything that would suggest that the Committee has adopted a decisive position toward the various current events. Perhaps this is due to the divergence in views which continues to be the factor impeding the crystallization of the required decisive position. Moreover, reports indicate that several Executive Committee members, who adopted negative stands on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, remained in Damascus and failed to respond to the invitation extended to them to participate in the Tunis meeting. These members have coped with the delicate situation by turning their backs to the meeting as if the topics under discussion are minor topics, and if they ignore them, could be solved according to their whims.

We would like to affirm that we are not the ones promoting a specific plan. Likewise, we would like to assert our respect for the independent decision which the PLO, represented by the Executive Committee, deems fit. But we cannot turn our backs at a time when we see some PLO leaders turning theirs, especially when the situation in our occupied land is fateful and delicate and the invaders are excelling in terrorist practices to uproot our kinfolk there.

AD-DUSTUR adds: It is true that the circumstances are extremely delicate and the complications are numerous and extremely grave, but those who stoodfast during the seige of Beirut certainly possess the valor and the power to confront the situation, irrespective of the grave and delicate complications of this situation.

Only great men and historic leadership can distinguish between various stands and choose the stand that is closer to the goal.

No one can promise the PLO that by doing this or that it will undoubtedly achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from our land and the liberation of the homeland. However, simple and clear-cut logic dictates that the PLO must exploit every factor bound to achieve a political or unpolitical gain in confronting the Israeli invaders. It stands to reason that the PLO's move would bring about a confrontation between Israel and those who are seriously, or not seriously talking about peace. Under the circumstances, should we exempt Israel from this confrontation or help it rid itself of the peace networks, which are tightening the noose around it, or make it look not responsible for aborting the peace plans.

Concluding its editorial, AD-DUSTUR asserts that every action that intensifies international condemnation of the Israeli settlement and occupation is in itself, a step along the road to increasing world understanding of our right and struggle — irrespective of the nature of this struggle should Israel insist on thawarting every international attempt to end the whirlpool of violence which Israel has begun in the region.

It was a real catastrophe for the Arab division to impose itself on the PLO's structure. It would even be more tragic if this phenomenon succeeds in penetrating the highest echelons of the PLO and in giving them two options —either subservience or enertia —while the enemy, which originally was founded on subservience, is freeing itself of this subservience, and is hastily working to implement its designs — unprecedented in our occupied homeland.

JORDAN TIMES on Shultz Visit to Middle East

JN231036 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "George's Choice"]

[Text] The question of whether or not United States Secretary of State George Shultz will visit the Middle East soon appears to be taking on an importance all of its own, seemingly unrelated to the substance of United States policy in the area.

Perhaps this is not such a strange thing, in view of the United States'traditional perference for form over substance in this part ofthe world. Mr Shultz himself has consistently stated that he will make the trip when it would contribute substantively to the desire of all concerned parties for a just and durable peace in the region. He puts himself in a position of having to show progress if he makes the trip, and of indicating the lack of possibilities for progress if he does not.

Our feeling is that Mr Shultz has recently proved himself to be a man of extraordinarily retrogressive and petty vision in the sphere of American ties with the Palestinians and with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). After the suspension ofthe Jordan-PLO talks, an obviously irritated George Shultz went around saying nasty things about the PLO and questioning its legitimacy and authenticity as a political leadership for the Palestinians. This is an old and rather dirty tactic in political circles throughout the world--if you can't make progress by meeting your adversaries half-way, call them names and question their legitimacy. In other words, deal with form instead of substance. Ignore American responsibilities for death and destruction in the Middle East and pin all blame on the PLO.

If George Shultz comes to the Middle East to repeat this same childish theme and push these same hollow arguments, he should not waste his time. If, however, he comes to the Middle East determined to address the central issues and indicate a willingness to meet with the Arabs half-way in formulating a peace strategy that could be supported by all parties, he would be welcomed with open arms. The last thing we need is another American official who will talk nonsense while in office, only to write in his memoirs several years hence that the United States should deal with the PLO because the PLO is clearly the only genuine representative of the Palestinians.

Our hope is that Mr. Shultz would come to the area armed with a new sense of realism and fairness, for there appear to be few options to a central American role in any peace-making effort that could succeed. If Mr Shultz comes carrying the fairness and open-mindedness of the American people, he will succeed. If he comes bearing the cross of an intellectually hostage and hand cuffed American Government, he will get nowhere. The choice is his.

Criticizes Reagan on PLO

JN240830 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Apr 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Hold On to Four Sides..."]

[Text] The highest officials of the American Administration are giving us a case study in how not to conduct diplomacy in the Middle East. First the American secretary of state — the American, not the Israeli secretary of state, keep in mind — lashes out like a spoiled kid against the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), trying to transfer the deficiencies of the Reagan initiative and administration on to the shoulders of the PLO. Then a U.S. House of Representatives Middle East subcommittee increases aid to Israel by another $365 million for fiscal year 1984. The same committee also ties American arms sales to Jordan to Jordan's unilateral recognition of Israel and entry into American-engineered "peace" talks. Then the Reagan administration announces it has authorized Israel to buy American technology to produce its next generation fighter-bomber, thereby telling the world that while America directly financed and armed the Israeli occupation of Arab lands in the 1970s and 1980s, it will support Israel's predatory policies in the 1990s in a mode indirect way — by providing American technology to keep Israel as the area's superpower. And finally, the United States President himself — the United States, not the Israeli president, keep in mind — sees fit to lash out himself against the PLO, further attempting to ignore the stark deficiencies in American policy in the Middle East by trying to blame everything on the PLO.

All of this reminds us rather vividly of the Vietnam mentality. Remember when the Nixon-Kissinger team used to claim that if only the supply lines of the Vietcong could be interrupted by bombing half of Vietnam and parts of Cambodia off the face of the earth, then the people of South Vietnam could live in peace and prosperity? Sounds familiar? It should, because the Reagan-Shultz team is applying the same blinkered approach to the Middle East today. If only the PLO would go away, they say in their dreams, America could bring night baseball to the Holy Land. If only the Palestinians would forget the only authentic political leadership they have developed since the 1890s, peace would break out all over. When will the Reagan-Shultz team tell us that — hold on to your side for this one, friends — peace is just around the corner? This is an administration that wishes to be a mediator in the Middle East?

Commentary Views Recent Reagan Statements

JN240926 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] More than one point draws our attention to the statements President Reagan made the day before yesterday regarding his secretary of state's tour of the Middle East. President Reagan said this tour reflects the U.S. Administration's determination to work toward solving the Palestinian cause, adding that Shultz will confirm to the heads of state he intends to visit, that the Reagan Middle East peace plan is still alive.

We do not see the mere visit of the U.S. secretary of state to the region reflecting U.S. determination to solve the Palestinian cause, unless the U.S. secretary has something new to offer regarding the aggravating situation and the occupation that has already devoured all of Palestine, as well as other Arab territories in the north and south, and is now threatening to turn the Middle East into a new Balkans, similar to the Balkans of Europe that triggered the first bullets of both world wars.

We believe the United States when it voices its desire to bring about peace. However, a look at what is taking place on the ground forces us to doubt the seriousness of the U.S. leaders' statements. Any new oral confirmations by Shultz or anyone else will not bring anything new and cannot change the status quo.

President Reagan said that nothing must hamper U.S. efforts to solve the Palestinian cause and settle the Arab-Israeli dispute. The President added that the fate of the negotiations must not depend on the PLO's presence at the negotiations.

We agree with the U.S. President on the trend of peace, yet we wonder about the real side that has been hampering peace efforts in the region for the past three decades. We hear and read much about U.S. officials' statements condemning the Israeli settlements and considering them an obstacle on the path of peace. These settlements would not have been built had it not been for Israel's occupation of Arab land; and this continued Israeli occupation of Arab land would not have continued had it not been for the U.S. military and political umbrella and unlimited aid that is still pouring into the enemy's occupying forces. Why, then, does the U.S. President try to ignore this fact? Why does he try to hold the PLO or any other Arab side responsible for hampering the peace efforts at a time when the Arabs seek only to end the occupation of their usurped land?

SAWT ASH-SHA'B on King's Messages to Arab Leaders

JN250850 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Consultation and Coordination Toward Real Solidarity," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: Proceeding from the desire to continue the pan-Arab moves for the sake of the Palestine question, and to face the new developments in the Arab arena, the Jordanian move has always been based on

consultations and coordination with the Arab leaderships in order to achieve a joint objective and attain a strong Arab stand through frankness and continuous contracts. This is why His Majesty King Husayn sent messages to a number of Arab leaders explaining the nature of his concern for Arab unanimity on any adopted stand, and on any action toward the new and escalating events in the region, which are today, defining the features of the entire Arab future.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Through its declared position, Jordan is frank and courageous in expressing its opinions and thoughts. Jordan does not proceed from weak positions or introversion, but works within the framework of the one Arab family, which as a whole, determines what can and what must be done to face the fateful challenges encountering our Arab nation.

Because Arab solidarity and unity of position are the distinguishing characteristics of Jordanian policy, King Husayn's continuous trips and visits to his Arab brothers, and his continued consultations with the Arab leaders, make Jordan the heart of Arab efforts for unified Arab action.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: We are confident that this spirit will remain the basic incentive and the first factor in giving the Arab stand effectiveness and strength. We also hope that all brothers will mobilize their efforts and keep all doors open for dialogue, consultation, and unified action, because real solidarity always remains the basis for the triumph of the nation's issues, as well as this nation's aspiration for the restoration of its rights and the fulfillment of its hopes for unity and a better future.

King Husayn Receives Algerian Envoy, Message

JN231450 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. It was delivered by Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, personal envoy of the Algerian president, and adviser in the Presidential Office, when his majesty received him today at An-Nadwah Palace. The message, which comes within the framework of consultations and exchange of viewpoints between the two fraternal countries, deals with the latest developments of the situation in the Middle East, and the recent events in the Arab arena.

Present at the meeting were: His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; the prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the armed forces; the information and foreign ministers; and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

Envoy Leaves, Makes Statement

JN231948 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from His Excellency Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. It was delivered by Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi, personal envoy of the Algerian president, and adviser in the Presidential Office, when his majesty received him today at An-Nadwah Palace. Al-Akhdar al-Ibrahimi left Amman this evening. In a departure statement to the PETRA correspondent, he said he had a useful conversation with His Majesty King Husayn on the Arab situation in general and the Middle East problem in particular. He also expressed appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and pointed out that his majesty is acting sincerely to support Arab solidarity and the Arab central issue.

He was seen off at Amman airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and the Algerian ambassador in Amman.

King's Envoys Leave Amman With Messages 24 Apr

JN241244 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim left Amman this morning as King Husayn's envoys to deliver messages to a number of Arab leaders.

PETRA has learned that King Husayn's messages deal with recent developments on the Palestine question and recent developments in the Arab arena.

Hasan Ibrahim Receives UN Press Delegation

JN231550 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Amman, 23 Apr (PETRA) — Minister of Occupied Territories Hasan Ibrahim received in his office this morning the press delegation sent by the United Nations to visit Jordan and prepare for the Palestine conference scheduled to be held in Paris in August. He reviewed with the members of the delegation the conditions in the occupied territories, and the repressive measures being practiced by the Isaeli occupation authorities against the citizens in order to implement their settlement programs aimed at confiscating Arab lands and evacuating their legitimate owners.

Hasan Ibrahim also briefed the delegation on the efforts being exerted by the joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee to support steadfastness in the occupied territories and confront occupation plans. He also replied to questions posed by members of the delegation, and asserted that Jordan would continue its efforts to achieve an overall settlement and a just peace in the region based on a complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights in their homeland.

Abu 'Awdah Receives Delegation

JN231855 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Information Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah this morning received the press delegation sent by the United Nations to prepare for the Palestine conference scheduled to be held in Paris in August. The delegation arrived in Amman yesterday as part of a tour of a number of Arab states which host refugees and

immigrants, after the Israeli authorities prevented the delegation from visiting the occupied Arab territories to acquaint the members with the basic realities in the Palestine question.

GDR Deputy Minister Makes Statement, Leaves

JN221430 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Gerd Koenig, GDR deputy minister for foreign affairs [title as heard], left Amman today after a visit of several days. In a statement to the PETRA correspondent, he described his visit to Jordan as successful and fruitful. He added that during his visit, he signed an agreement with the Jordanian Government to develop the existing scientific and cultural relations between the two countries. He also said that, in light of this visit, other agreements will be signed in the future for senior officials in the two countries to exchange visits.

Concerning Jordanian-GDR relations, Koenig said that these relations were established 10 years ago and remain good. He added: We are seeking to exploit other fields for developing economic relations between the two countries.

Chairman of U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Arrives

JN242010 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] General John Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Amman this evening at the head of a military delegation on an official visit of several days. During his stay, he will visit a number of military centers and units.

The guest military delegation was received by Staff Lieutenant General ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; the chief of staff; a number of senior officers in the Jordanian Armed Forces; the U.S. ambassador in Amman;and a number of Embassy staff.

Al-Jumayyil Discusses Talks With Israel

NC222320 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Lebanon is currently passing through the most critical phase of its life and the most serious battle in the history of its existence. Never before has Lebanon faced a situation like the one it is facing now, a situation to which Shakespeare's saying "to be or not to be" applies. We are in fact waging the first battle of Lebanese dignity and the first battle of real Lebanese independence. There is no longer any room for anarchy or permissiveness on the Lebanese arena because the battle is not between one party and another party or between an organization and another organization, but is between the Lebanese and the non-Lebanese and between regimes that fight in Lebanon by proxy. Moreover, there are many who are harmed by the peace march in Lebanon.

For the first time, we are expessing a real Lebanese will. For the first time, we are saying our words without fear or an inferiority complex. We are not afraid to tell the United States what we want, or to tell Israel what we reject or tell Syria: This is our interest. I will not allow southern Lebanon to become another West Bank, or another Gaza or another Golan.

President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil said this in a lengthy conversation in which he explained to the Lebanese public the truth about the current situation during his meeting at noon Friday with the members of the press association under its chairman doyen Muhammad al-Ba'labakki. President al-Jumayyil explained that Lebanon's current battle is being waged on several fronts. In addition to the international and regional conflicts which use Lebanon as their arena, there is our domestic front. We derive strength from weakness and we rely on the silent majority which I know supports me and believes in what I am doing. However, regrettably, there are some who view the issue from a narrow perspective and from a personal political angle, as though the parliamentary elections will be held tomorrow or as though they are afraid they will lose their control of this or that quarter. Some are still behaving as if Lebanon is themaster of its affairs, as if there is no Israeli army in the south and the mountain, as if there is no Syrian Army in the north and the Al-Biqa', and as if there is no Iranian Army,or no intelligence services actively working, covertly and overtly, for various rival international and regional powers and interests.

Nothing is more harmful than this indifference by some people who do not realize that Lebanon is passing through the most critical phase of its life. While Lebanon is trying to emphasize the independence of its decision, its ambition, and the vitality of its people at any cost, we see some leaders, for reasons known to everyone, still adhere to superficial matters or logic which, if we tolerate it, will undermine all the prerequisities to which we firmly adhere. Revealing the point reached in the negotiations with Israel, President al-Jumayyil said: Lebanon rejects any Israeli military presence on its territory. Any solution which we will approve must be very clear regarding full withdrawal from all Lebanese territory. We prefer not to reach or sign any agreement and to let the situation remain as it is rather than to record for ourselves that we have conceded our rights to any non-Lebanese forces on our territory.

President al-Jumayyil explained that our problem is that there are Israelis, Syrians, Palestinians, Iranians, and others present on our territory. These appear above ground. As for those who are underground, they are difficult to count.

Regarding the Syrians and Palestinians, we are in constant touch with them to develop understanding and persuade them that it is about time they help Lebanon restore its independence and dignity, particularly since we have promises that their stand will not be a stumbling block toward the restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty.

As for Israel, it entered Lebanon on the pretext of ensuring the Galilee's safety. However, events soon developed in the known way and Lebanon began negotiating to end the non-Lebanese presence on its territory. The Palestinians left Beirut last summer. The situation then developed in the known way. We completed the march when we took office.

Israel is now demanding two things: First, the establishment of normal relations with Lebanon, that is, that Lebanon deal with Israel as France deals with Belgium, for example; second, a kind of guarantee for its border which in its view can only be secured through a recognized Israeli military presence given legal status by the Lebanese state through joint participation with the Lebanese Army.

President al-Jumayyil said: When Israel submitted these two demands, it knew in advance that it would not achieve its objective easily. It resorted to various means to put pressure on Lebanon, but it ended up agreeing to negotiate with the Lebanese state, which alone has the right to decide. The Lebanese negotiating delegation worked within the framework of the basic and firm principles we had defined for it.

Regarding the establishment of relations with Israel, everybody knows our stand, which is that we do not accept normalization but the end of the state of war. There is no room for abandoning our normal position. Regarding the security arrangements, President al-Jumayyil said: Lebanon will not accept any arrangements that consecrate the remnants of an occupation or undermine Lebanese sovereignty. Lebanon's stand toward the outstanding issue of Sa'd Haddad lies within this framework. We consider this issue a purely domestic one. Under certain circumstances and under a general atmosphere in the country, we can find a solution for it and every similar issue. However, we do not accept that any decision be imposed on us, particularly if such a decision harms the Army's morale, dignity, and good performance of its duty. If Israel considers the security of its border its right, it should also consider the exercise of security on our territory our duty and responsibility. It is also hard for me to believe that Israel's security depends on one person, no matter how capable he is. Moreover, Lebanon has not accepted the principle of joint task patrols [dawriyat 'amalaniyah mushtarakah] or the principle of the establishment of mutual representation [qiyam tamthil mutabadal] or other conditions which are inconsistent with Lebanon's sovereignty and dignity.

Negotiations are revolving around the establishment of a tripartite Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli commission similar to the armistice commission, whose mission is to examine the implementation of

any anticipated agreement through committees that have no task character and that work for a limited period of time. This is what is under discussion. I wanted to put you in the picture. I regret to say that any price Lebanon will pay, it will pay on behalf of all the Arabs because of their negative stands and their abandonment of their responsibility over recent years. Some of the Arabs even plotted against Lebanon until disasters befell it.

In view of this, no one has the right to blame us. We will adopt a stand toward anyone who accuses us. We do not accept that anyone teaches us patriotism or the prerequisities of the common Arab interest. No one has given what Lebanon has given. No one has sacrificed for this interest like Lebanon. On the contrary, all have thrown the ball in Lebanon's court, as though the issue is our sole responsibility.

However, I affirm to you, President al-Jumayyil said, that I will not allow southern Lebanon to become another Golan, or another West Bank or another Gaza Strip. He who has better means to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, let him come forward. We are open and ready to discuss every proposal submitted to us, while taking into consideration that Lebanon differs from other Arab states. This is in the sense that Israel could have remained in Sinai for a longer period without Egypt being affected and that the situation in Golan could remain as it is now for scores of years without Syria being affected. However, all of us know that the Israeli occupation is still on the outskirts of the capital, Beirut, and in the depth of the mountain, with all its repercussions on the psychological, social, and security levels.

President al-Jumayyil said: We have no option but to rescue our people before our land. If we want to rescue the prerequisites of our existence before rescuing security, we only have this course. Anyone who has other methods, let him submit them. However, we will not accept mere advice and theories. He who is receiving the blows is not the same as he who is counting them.

Speaking next about the Lebanese Army, President al-Jumayyil said: We have begun to feel a qualitative and radical change in the Army. The Lebanese Army has achieved a qualitative leap. We all remember how the Lebanese Army was dispersed and paralyzed, and how it was as if it did not exist. Within 6 months, we have been able to restore to the Lebanese Army its cause, role, and pride. We have begun to feel positive results. The good response to enlistment in the Army is a cause of optimism for us as a government and for all Lebanese. We announced the application of military service with a bit of caution, wondering about the future of the occupied area and the enlistment rates in them because of pretexts and pressure.

We made arrangements for receiving 3,500 recruits as a first stage. We were compelled to alter the arrangements and add new funds because the number jumped from 3,500 to 5,500 recruits, who registered their names for the first stage. We prepared a 1-month enlisting program. On the first day, 70 recruits from the north were supposed to join. Sixty-nine persons joined and the only one who did not join had a medical report. About 100 recruits from the south also joined. The enlistment rate from all areas is 99 percent. This indicates that enlistment is natural and voluntary and that all the people bless this step. We consider this an affirmation of the people's determination to shoulder their historic responsibility and to overcome the ordeal. This determination is my only source of optimism because when I took office, the homeland was without an army and was occupied by several armies. The administration was in shambles and the Republican Palace was damaged. We had no reason for optimism except our faith in the Lebanese people, determined to rescue themselves by themselves. We are only a tool at the disposal of the people to help them triumph.

President al-Jumayyil said: Therefore, on the level of the Army, we have been able to implement the military service law after it was a frozen plan for years. Despite all the political, security, and financial hurdles, we did not hesitate. I said 5,500 youths registered for military service. I expect the number to jump to 9,500 during this year, even though the maximum number used to be 5,000 youths. Moreover, voluntary service in the Army used to take place at the rate of 2,500 soldiers per year. This year, about 3,500 soldiers from the various communities volunteered within 3 months.

These are the achievements so far. It is our hope that this Army, which includes the various strata of the people, will become a school of patriotism. We need to make national education sound and to raise the people's morale. We need an army which will be more of a national institution than a mere security tool.

Therefore, we wanted cooperation between the Army and the people. The first initiative took place in the southern suburb so that the people would feel that the Army is for them and that it is not only a salaries and medals army but an army for defense in the time of war and the holder of a development and social role in the time of peace. Therefore, we carried out the first achievement in the southern suburb. I was greatly satisfied with the Army's response to its mission, which it was asked to do for the first time, like cleaning roads of dirt and carrying out repair works, and similar things.

UK'S Callaghan Arrives in Beirut 22 April

NC221550 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan has arrived in Beirut. He will inspect the British contingent operating within the framework of the multinational force. Callaghan affirmed at the airport that the British Government stands by Lebanon and considered the U.S. Embassy explosion a real tragedy.

Callaghan Optimistic About Talks

NC241541 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Former British Prime Minister James Callaghan today expressed his optimism about [the outcome] of the negotiations on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. He said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz might be able to resolve these negotiations.

At a press conference he held in Beirut before his departure today

and following discussions he held with officials in Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon and with the PLO, Callaghan urged the PLO to give powers to the [Arab] officials in the West Bank if it feels that it cannot negotaite on their behalf.

Callaghan, who met with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim yesterday, said: It appears to me that there is some basis for optimism in Lebanon. There exists a procedural framework for the withdrawal. This procedural framework includes many of the details, perhaps up to 75 percent.

Callaghan on War Risk

NC241749 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Former UK Prime Minister Callaghan said he believed there no longer was a danger of war between Syria and Israel. However, he went on: I do not rule out war in the future if we do not have progress toward the solution of these problems.

Callaghan was then asked whether Britain should extend the mandate of its detachment with the multinational peace force in Beirut, which was originally fixed at 3 months and which was recently extended 3 more months. He answered: This matter must be considered periodically. He added: However, if the foreign forces begin withdrawing from Lebanon, then the Lebanese Army and the other authorities will need to fill a vacuum. I hope that the British forces will be available for this purpose as well.

25 April Tripartite Negotiations Begin in Khaldah

NC250858 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0837 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Report by delegation of the Ministry of Information from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah —live]

[Text] The 33d round of tripartite negotiations will begin shortly at the Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah. The U.S. delegation led by Ambassador Morris Draper, the Lebanese dlegation led by Ambassador Antoine Fattal and the Israeli delegation led by David Kimche have arrived successively at the place of the negotiations.

Reliable sources have affirmed that today's round of tripartite negotiations will not be devoid of serious and practical discussions after new factors have emerged. These include His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's outlining Lebanon's final position toward the basic issues in the negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' tour of the area, and the U.S. positions on the Lebanese issue and on securing the withdrawal of foreign forces from the whole of Lebanon.

As we have already mentioned, the 33d round of tripartite negotiations will begin shortly, and it appears that the delegations are now holding lateral consultations.

Fattal Interviewed

NC251055 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0925 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Report by delegation of the Ministry of Information from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah — live]

[Text] This is the Information Ministry delegation to the tripartite negotiations again speaking to you from Khaldah. The round of tripartite negotiations in Khaldah began about 15 minutes ago. The delegations held a plenary session. Before the session, the following dialogue took place between the journalists and Ambassador Fattal

Question: Secretary Shultz declared in Mexico that he will go to the Middle East if there was something that can be accomplished. Do you think that there is something to be accomplished?

Answer: Shultz will visit Lebanon on Thursday, and we hope that we can reach a conclusion.

Question: Importance is being attached to today's round.

Answer: We have canceled the remaining sessions for this week — that is, Tuesday's, Wednesday's, and Thursday's — because of Shultz' visit. If the negotiations do not end during Shultz' visit, we shall resume them after the visit, and we shall decide when to hold the sessions. It is known that Shultz will visit Israel on Wednesday.

Question: So, the negotiations might be concluded during Secretary Shultz' visit to Lebanon?

Answer: If they are not concluded during Shultz' visit, we shall resume the negotiations after the visit.

Question: Do you carry a Lebanese position today in light of His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's outlining of the final position toward the basic points in the negotiations?

Answer: Everything will be discussed. Wait and see.

In reply to a question, Ambassador Fattal said: We may not accomplish everything today.

Question: You have said before that there are contacts to ease the restrictions on the residents near the Khaldah roadblock.

Answer: Did they stop you today? My information is that the issue is being dealt with.

Spokesman Reports

NC251114 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Report by delegation of the Ministry of Information from Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah]

[Text] We have now with us the official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations Dr Dawud as-Sayigh to

talk to us about today's negotiations:

[Begin As-Sayigh recording] Today, in the plenary session, the head of the Lebanese delegation explained that Lebanon is determined to continue working to achieve an agreement and that His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's remarks in his meeting with the press association must be viewed as a whole, since they reflect Lebanon's situation as a whole — not only the aspect of relations with Israel, but the relations with the Arab states, too, and all the interests in Lebanon. What his excellency the president aimed at is what the Lebanese delegation is reflecting in the negotiations — that is, the desire to reach an agreement provided it will not be dangerous and harmful to Lebanon. The remarks of his excellency the president should be viewed with good intention and the negotiations must continue so as to reach an agreement.

The head of the Lebanese delegation also expressed the hope that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will be able, during his visit to the area, to find solutions to problems to which the two sides have not found a solution as yet.

After a discussion of a number of subjects, the U.S. delegation submitted a sort of draft interpretation of the draft Lebanese agreement which has been under study for some time, listing points of agreement and points of disagreement. This is what the general committee began studying now. Thank you. [end As-Sayigh recording]

Further Report On Talks

NC251120 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1011 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Report by delegation of the Ministry of Information at Lebanon Beach Hotel in Khaldah — live]

[Text] The Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli delegations are still meeting in plenary session. In this session, Ambassador Fattal explained to the U.S. and Israeli delegations the need to try to reach an agreement, stressing the need to take into consideration His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil's statement in determining the final Lebanese position toward the basic points.

A reliable source explained a short while ago that the work in today's plenary session is concentrating on isolating the points of agreement, the points of disagreement, and the points which are still under study in light of the formula submitted by the U.S. side on the basis of the draft Lebanese agreement.

Al-Wazzan Hails Reagan Statements on Talks

NC241817 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan tonight said U.S. President Ronald Reagan's statements have come to reaffirm the U.S. resolve to push the negotiations along the positive path at a time when these negotiations continue to vacillate as a result of the Israeli conditions.

Al-Wazzan added: Secretary Shultz' arrival in the area is another expression of this resolve. Despite all this, we expect an effective and decisive action which would end this vacillation. We reiterate that Lebanon is a sovereign and independent state and it is absolutely impermissible to detract from this independence and sovereignty.

VOL Notes Shultz Telegram Response to Salim

NC250902 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has sent a telegram in reply to the telegram sent to him by Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Elie Salim offering condolences on the victims in the embassy bombing. Shultz emphasized that the U.S. policy will not be shaken under the influence of barbaric terrorism: We will work together to prevent the recurrence of such violence in Lebanon. We are convinced that Lebanon's stability and sovereignty tend to insure freedom and peace for all its residents.

Shultz began his telegram by saying that he was deeply pained by the horrific tragedy that has befallen the American Embassy in Beirut.

The telegram said that Shultz asked Mr Lawrence Eagleberger to convey his gratitude to the Lebanese Government for the assistance that was extended by the Lebanese authorities as soon as the embassy incident occurred.

In another development, the foreign and expatriates affairs minister reviewed with Mr Hammadi as-Sid the developments in the negotiations. They also reviewed the events occurring in the area as well as the interest taken by the Arab League in these negotiations.

Deployment of Soviet Arms in Ra's al-Matn

NC230616 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] A Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that 40 Soviet-built tanks were sent to Ra's al-Matn during this week, in addition to 40 armored personnel carriers and a battery of Grad missiles.

Socialists Receive Soviet Weapons

NC231350 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1200 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] The security reports handed over to the authorities stated that the Socialist Party had received lately weapons from the Soviet Union and Libya and a large amount of money from Yasir 'Arafat. The weapons were transported to the socialists with the Israelis facilitating the mission.

More Syrian Reinforcements Reportedly Enter Al-Biqa'
NC231410 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1200 GMT 23 Apr83

[Text] Latest reports from Al-Biqa' spoke of new Syrian forces entering the region with more reinforcements for the Syrian occupying army on the confrontation liens with Israel.

The distribution of the forces took place in the early hours of this morning. No details were given either on the number of the soldiers or the new weapons brought into Lebanese territory. Meanwhile in the north, Israeli aircraft are reported to have made reconnaissance flights of the region.

Israeli, Syrian Reinforcements Reported
NC241549 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] According to information available to the Voice of Lebanon, the Syrian forces have deployed dozens of vehicles in Upper al-Matn and sent Soviet-made sophisticated tanks to the Syrian border. In the meantime, the Israeli forces have started construction of a third airfield in the western al-Biqa' area and a port on Al-Jiyah beach after having completed the Ad-Damur military airfield; work at the 'Ayn Zhalta airfield is about to be completed.

The information adds that these preparations constitute in military terms bridgeheads for a blitzkreig. This belief is reinforced by what the Israeli forces did under the guise of rotation operations in the past few days when they brought in heavy tanks and self-propelled 155-mm guns to the Sawfar and Al-Baruk areas.

Syrian-Israeli Clashes
NC241731 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] In the Al-Biqa', the Syrian-Israeli contact axes have witnessed intermittent clashes during which machineguns, heavy weapons, short-range guns [al-madafi'i al-mubashirah], and rocket projectiles were used. Tension prevailed in the area last night and this morning.

According to reports from the Al-Biqa', the Syrian and Palestinian forces intensified their roadblocks in the Zahlah area and set up mobile roadblocks.

Syrian Quarters Praise Al-Jumayyil Stand
NC241825 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] An official source today said Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil's rejection of any Israeli military presence in Lebanon received a good reaction among Syrian political quarters. The source added that the Lebanese stance reinforces the Syrian deterrent and intransigent stance, which stressed several times Syria's opposition to any settlement in Lebanon which would consolidate the Israeli occupation.

The Syrian papers today supported President al-Jumayyil's statement. The papers carried the headlines: No to the Normalization or Any Israeli Presence. We Will Not Permit Southern Lebanon to Become a New [West] Bank.

VOL Fears Military Confrontation Being Prepared
NC251338 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] The Al-Biqa' area has turned into an arsenal for the opposing Syrian and Israeli weapons amid preparations that suggest the possibility of a military confrontation between the two sides. In the past few hours, it has been noticed that tension has risen, while exchanges with medium and heavy weapons across armed positions have also taken place. These exchanges have also been coupled with numerous sorties by Israeli military aircraft.

The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' are using a new method to transport weapons to the area by using large non-military trucks with Lebanese number plates.

Information adds that Syria has reinforced its intelligence service in Al-Biqa' to watch suspicious activities in the Syrian forces themselves.

Security information available to the Voice of Lebanon says that indirect contacts between the Syrian and Israeli sides in the Al-Biqa' area have led to the opening of the roads between northern and western Al-Biqa' for civilians on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 1000 until 1600.

The situation in Upper Al-Matn provokes concern because the Syrian forces have pushed new numbers of tanks and vehicles into the area, in addition to the presence of Soviet experts who are studying the topography of the area, exactly as other Soviet experts are doing in the Zahlah plain.

U.S. Reportedly Wants Turkey in Beirut Force
NC250723 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Informed Turkish sources have stated that diplomatic circles in Ankara are circulating information about a U.S. desire for Turkey to participate in the multinational force in Beirut. The same sources said that some Turkish officials have expressed interest in this matter from the standpoint of participating in combating international terrorism in the area.

Shultz Trip Linked With Israeli War Plans

JN241922 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] This time last year there was much talk about an imminent Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon and the Arab nationalist forces. In the midst of that talk and Israel's preparations for its aggression against Lebanon, U.S. President Reagan dispatched his former secretary of state, Alexander Haig, on a tour of several countries in the region. As unanimously noted by political observers, Haig's tour resulted in the completion of the Israeli military preparations for the invasion of Lebanon and the specification of the date, strength, and targets of that invasion. Haig was the first to describe the invasion as America's golden opportunity in the Middle East.

Now, 1 year after Haig's tour, the U.S. President announces the dispatch of his new secretary of state, George Shultz, to the region. The new announcement has also come in the midst of the Israeli preparations to launch a new attack against Syria. News media in all parts of the world are unanimous that Israel is ready to launch its attack and that it is awaiting the green light from the White House.

Has Reagan sent the green light with Shultz? Reagan himself said that Shultz' task is to guarantee the success of the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. negotiations. But in the opinion of Lebanese and non-Lebanese observers, these negotiations are only witnessing U.S. pressure on Lebanon in favor of the Israeli negotiator, which is why Israel has firmly held to its military, economic, and security conditions. The task of the U.S. delegation in these negotiations and of the U.S. envoy has been confined to persuading Lebanon to accept these conditions under different names. It is this pro-Israeli U.S. position which has prompted Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil to define his country's position on these conditions. He frankly announced that Lebanon rejects normalization and any Israeli military presence on its territory.

Whoever deeply considers the Lebanese situation will find that the Shultz mission has no connection with solving the Lebanese crisis. It is only concerned with finding a new formula to enforce the Reagan plan. This was confirmed by Reagan himself when he announced after the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks that his plan still exists and that he will enforce it by other means. Reagan's statements yesterday were saying the same thing.

The U.S. problem is to find alternative formulas for enforcing the Reagan plan. When Israel announces that there is mutual cooperation with the United States to study the situation on the Syrian front, and that this matter has been completely coordinated, we realize what alternative formulas the U.S. Administration is seeking and why it has dispatched George Shultz, the friend of the region as they portray him, to us.

Monte Carlo: Shultz Reportedly Welcome Here

JN241235 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1205 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Syria is ready to receive any U.S. envoy to reaffirm to him its firm stand on the Arabs' destiny and interests.

This was stated by a well-informed Syrian source to the Syrian paper ASH-SHARQ in reply to a question on Syria's stand toward the possibility of a visit by Shultz to Damascus. The source said that if this visit takes place, the Syrian officials will reaffirm to their interlocutors that the basic cause for the continuation of the dispute in the Middle East is Israel's pursuit of its policy of expansion and the economic and military assistance which Washington continues to provide Israel with.

The source added that Syria will reiterate to any official — whether a U.S. official or not — that it is ready to withdraw from Lebanon when the Lebanese Government asks it to do so, on condition that this withdrawal is preceded by the withdrawal of all the Israeli forces in Lebanon without preconditions and without and security arrangements that would contradict Lebanon's sovereignty and may harm Syria's security.

Dailies Accuse Israel of Planning Aggression

AL-BA'TH Editorial

PM221327 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 19 Apr 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Preparation for Aggression and Fabrication of Excuses"]

[Text] While the U.S.-sponsored Lebanese-Israeli negotiations are continuing, the occupation authorities are strengthening their military presence in strategic positions in Lebanon where military airfields are being built, early warning stations installed, and missile bases erected. Of course, all this is being done with the knowledge and, indeed, with the approval of the U.S. Administration.

The enemy is engaged in this activity under the pretext that Syria might attack from Lebanon. Meanwhile, all the news agencies, including those which publicized the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, confirm that the Israeli military preparations in Lebanon are aimed at dealing a military blow at Syria.

There have been incessant U.S.-Israeli contacts at the highest level concerning this strike. This was confirmed by Arens, the enemy's war minister, who 2 weeks ago said: We are following up the situation with the U.S. Administration by telephone. Arens yesterday reiterated what the White House leaders said before — that the arming of Syria is causing concern, and in fact poses a threat to the security and stability of the area. He also pointed out that the Israeli forces are now ready to face any contingency.

Israel, the United States, and some of their tools in the area have for some time been emphasizing that Syria is the main stumbling block to the U.S.-Zionist capitulationist plans. Also, there are those who advised Israel and the United States to take military action in order to break Syria's back and cut it down to size, so as to facilitate the implementation of the capitulationist plans and, thereby, implement and consolidate U.S. strategy in the area.

Syria is well aware of this situation, and friends of the Arab struggle — foremost of which is the Soviet Union, the loyal friend — have warned against it. The news agencies' daily reports about the enemy's military measures in the border areas confirm a fact that nobody can ignore — that the Zionist enemy, with full U.S. support and the approval of certain Arab parties that have assented to be more tools in the dirty conspiracy, is in fact preparing for military action against Syria. The fabrication of excuses for launching such an aggression should not be a difficult matter, for the justifications used for the invasion of Lebanon are still fresh in our memory.

Anyone who follows what the Zionist propaganda media are disseminating everywhere will reach the incontrovertible conclusion that preparations for aggression have been made. The visit to the Zionist entity last week of the director of U.S. intelligence, accompanied by some American generals, was in order to put the last touches to this aggression.

We in Syria are not surprised, and we will not be surprised by whatmight what happen. Our calculations of what the enemy is doing are accurate and, as leader Al-Asad said, our answer to aggression will be firm.

AL-BA'TH Notes 'Hostile Plan'

JN250736 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 25 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's papers continue discussing the Zionist military concentrations in the Al-Biqa' Valley and the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. In this regard and under the headline "Peace or War?" AL-BA'TH writes:

On the eve of his arrival in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz made lengthy press statements on peace and military withdrawals from Lebanon. A few hours earlier, the U.S. President also talked about peace upon receiving the victims of the Beirut U.S. Embassy explosion. While these statements were being made, reports talked about U.S. military concentrations in the Mediterranean, Zionist military concentrations, and an obvious escalation of threats against Syria. Therefore, what is the U.S. messenger carrying?

It seems that the matter is neither complicated nor difficult to solve, particularly since we are well aware of the peace about which they are talking. The U.S. President talked about that peace 8 months ago when he proposed his ill-reputed plan. His peace is merely overall capitulation to the ambitions of both Israel and the United States. The U.S. Administration is trying to impose this peace on the Arabs by force, and only by force. The recent Middle East developments clearly indicate that the U.S. Administration has finalized a plan for an anticipated aggression to be carried out under the slogan of peace.

Accordingly, the U.S. secretary is coming to directly supervise the implementation of the hostile plan. He who talks about partial withdrawals through comparison between the Zionist invasion forces and our armed forces in Lebanon remains far away from peace because we basically refuse such a comparison, and refuse to withdraw from Lebanon before the withdrawal of the last Zionist invader.

In conclusion, AL-BA'TH says: He who talks about seizing the opportunity to accept Reagan's plan remains detached from peace because we rejected the plan altogether and will not allow it to be imposed, whether through force and threats or through attraction and temptation.

TISHRIN Commentary

JN240920 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 24 Apr (SANA) — TISHRIN stresses that the threats against Syria and the encouragement to Israel to mobilize its forces in Al-Biqa' will be useless, and that Syria is a strong barrier in the face of Camp David, Reagan's plan, and the conspiracy of Zionizing Lebanon.

In today's comment, the paper says: The resolute and deterrent Syrian stand toward the enemy threats, the negotiations currently taking place in Lebanon, and the authorization of the Jordanian regime to start talks with Israel under an Arab reactionary cover, has had a strong and effective impact.

TISHRIN adds: Israel has realized that war against Syria will not be a picnic, that the Reagan plan has collapsed, and that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has stressed that he will not accept arrangements which would entrench the occupation and undermine Lebanon's relations with its Arab environment.

TISHRIN points out that the Reagan plan has changed from being a means of pressure on the Palestinians to a reactionary U.S. effort to contain Syria. The paper says: The best proof of this is the U.S. and Israeli threats and provocations, the feverish reactionary effort to liquidate the Palestine question through an authorization from the Palestinians and to initiate an As-Sadat type dialogue, which actually leads to capitulation.

TISHRIN stresses: The visit of U.S. Secretary of State Shultz to the region in an attempt to produce and arrange an alternative that would save the U.S. prestige and that of its reactionary allies, will be futile.

The paper stresses that Syria, which called for a just and durable solution which would safeguard the Palestinian Arab people's rights, will not stand idle toward the Israeli threats, will face the expansionist aggressors with all the weapons in its hands, and will remain as all Arabs know it to be: their advanced and impregnable fortress, and the shield which protects them.

Damascus Commentary Criticizes U.S. Credibility
JN241302 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The credibility of any stand is judged by whether or not words are substantiated by deeds. The United States' announcement that it supports Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity is not substantiated by what is taking place on the ground,which proves that despite the tripartite negotiations and Philip Habib's new proposals, Washington does not live up to its announcements.

The Israeli occupation of Lebanon continues despite the deadlines frequently announced by the Reagan administration to end the Israeli invasion. UN Security Council resolutions — particularly resolutions 508 and 509 — provided for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the invading Israeli forces from Lebanon. But 4 months after the beginning of negotiations held under the supervision and partnership of the United States, Washington has done nothing but attempt to find a compromise between what is termed as Lebanese sovereignty and Israeli security in southern Lebanon, a compromise which has not only disregarded the UN Security Council resolutions, but also tried to drag Lebanon into the Camp David framework either by the normalization of relations and the future relations [with Israel] or by ending the state of war and establishing economic and commercial ties [between Lebanon and Israel].

The United States also proposed partial withdrawal and arrangements to guarantee the security of Galilee, besides other proposals and ideas which were accompanied by an increase in the number of the multinational peace-keeping forces, which in reality complete the Israeli occupation.

Washington could easily have put an end to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon had it really been serious in its intentions, particularly since it claims that it alone is capable of solving the problems of the region. How could Washington end the Israeli occupation of Lebanon after having described the invasion as a defensive operation, and that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon had opened all gates in the region for the Camp David process?

Shamir had even announced that the objectives of Washington and Tel Aviv in Lebanon are the same. President Reagan also stated that his plan is a result of the Israeli invasion. All this indicates that the United States does not want to see its sovereignty restored to Lebanon. On the contrary, it wants to reap the political and strategic fruits of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, mainly by spreading the Camp David umbrella over other spots in the Arab region.

This explains the hysterical U.S. behavior which followed the collapse of the Reagan plan. It also explains the motives behind the U.S. and Israeli threats against Syria, particularly since the latter has asserted that it will not allow the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and that it will resist the attempts to force the Arabs to surrender and to help Israel achieve any gains in Lebanon. This also explains the reasons behind Shultz's tour of the region, and his announcement that the Reagan plan is still alive.

If the objectives of Washington and Tel Aviv in Lebanon are the same, then one would understand that the Israeli war cries and U.S. threats that preceded Shultz's arrival in the region aim mainly at finding a remedy to the breach in the U.S. strategy which has received a blow recently, particularly since the wagering on the U.S. sole capacity to solve the region's problems has failed.

New facts have emerged in light of all this. Among these facts is that the steadfastness represented in Syria is capable of presenting essential changes in the struggle and in favor of the Arab causes and future.

Soviet Magazine on Israeli Movements in Al-Biqa'
JN231459 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Moscow, 23 Apr (SANA) — Vladimir (Tofnan), USSR television correspondent, has said that it is no longer a secret that Israel and the United States have filled Lebanon, particularly the Al-Biqa' valley where the Israeli military forces are stationed, with military concentrations and reinforcements, and are blaring out foolish threats in preparation for a direct aggression against Syria.

In a letter published by the weekly magazine OGONEK today, the correspondent adds: It is the right of Syria and its army to take measures to protect Syria's security and sovereignty,and prevent Israel from carrying out its conspiracies and aggression against Syria's steadfastness.

The magazine concludes: Israel's measures and expansionist intentions are aimed at the land and its peaceful inhabitants who continue to cultivate their lands, although the situation in the area may explode at any time.

Mashariqah Discusses Ties With USSR Ambassador
JN231513 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Damascus, 23 Apr (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, assistant secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command, today received the USSR ambassador in Damascus.

Their talks dealt with the existing cordial relations between the two friendly countries and ways to bolster them in their common interest. The talks also dealt with the threats being made by Zionist enemy leaders to attack Syria, which the participants in the talks consider a steadfastness and confrontation base against the imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Shultz Coming to Mideast To Aid Peace Talks

Initial Assessment

TA231920 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Let us now look at the expected visit of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the Middle East. He will set out on his tour on Monday at dawn, and following a visit in Egypt, he will arrive in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Mr Shultz will also visit Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Lebanon, and perhaps even Syria. The tour will last about 2 weeks. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports about the initial assessments in Jerusalem on the eve of Shultz' tour:

[Ronen] George Shultz is to arrive in the Middle East, the main goal of his mission being to achieve a rapid arrangement in Lebanon conducive to the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that country. This also is evident from President Reagan's remarks last night when he officially announced Shultz's mission at the White House.

Cabinet ministers believe that Israel should now cooperate with the U.S. President in order to provide him with a political achievement which will restore his tarnished prestige in the Middle East. People in the Cabinet say that the recent improvement in Israeli-U.S. relations — the last expression of which could be found in President Reagan's latest remarks when he actually objected to including the PLO in the negotiations over the future of Judaea and Samaria — should be exploited.

People in the Cabinet regard Reagan's statements as a sobering up on the part of the United States from the illusion that negotiations may be conducted with the prior approval of the PLO. Shultz will stay several days in Jerusalem, at the King David Hotel. He may shuttle from here between Jerusalem and Beirut until he reaches an Israeli-Lebanese agreement, and perhaps even Syria's agreement in principle.

At the same time, he will try to revive the Reagan plan in an amended version. Hence, George Shultz is seeking to succeed in the mission Philip Habib could not accomplish. It is highly unlikely that he can afford to return to Washington empty-handed.

Motives Questioned

TA250708 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Apr 83 pp 1,2

[Report by Asher Wallfish and David Landau]

[Excerpts] Senior Israeli policymakers would very much like to enable U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to wrap up an Israel-Lebanon agreement on his forthcoming visit — both to facilitate the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, and to improve relations between Jerusalem and the Reagan administration.

There are signs in Jerusalem that the Israeli policymakers may find some additional flexibility in their negotiating positions if Shultz appears to be close to clinching a deal with Beirut.

But there is also much concern and suspicion in policymaking circles here: concern over the recent hardening of the Lebanese stand, and suspicion of close coordination between the U.S. and Lebanon behind Israel's back.

There is, moreover, a sense of determination that unites the Cabinet in not allowing the Lebanese to exploit the secretary of state's visit for tactical advantage in the negotiations. Hardliners and moderates alike warned yesterday that Israel would not be fobbed off with "concessions" from Beirut, offered through Shultz, of points that had already been conceded in the direct negotiations weeks ago.

"We are not prepared to renegotiate these issues," a highly placed source declared yesterday. He was referring to key matters of security and normalization on which Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, in a press briefing on Saturday, appeared to renege on understandings reached earlier by Israeli, Lebanese, and American negotiators at Halde, Qiryat Shemona, and Netanya. The source hinted that Israel is prepared to let the talks lapse rather than go back over issues that, in the Israeli view, had been settled. The source said this week's four sessions at Khaldah and Netanya would be critical.

While a Shultz visit to the Middle East had been in the air for some time, the announcement seemed to come as something of a surprise here. Three theories were advanced yesterday to explain the timing and the possible link to the Lebanon talks:

— The administration dearly wants a success in its Mideast policy. Al-Jumayyil is totally under U.S. influence. Washington informed Al-Jumayyil last week that Shultz was coming — and urged him to toughen his country's negotiating stance so that when the secretary comes, Beirut can soften its stand again, thereby giving Shultz a "success."

This theory, akin to the goat-in-crowded-hovel Hassidic tale, was advanced with much fervor at the Cabinet yesterday by Minister-Without-Portfolio Ari'el Sharon. Sharon urged his colleagues to stand firm and not to cooperate in this scenario. If Reagan is now, belatedly, coming to realize that the U.S. had set too much store by the PLO, said Sharon, it was due to Israel's firm stand in recent months. Similarly, now Israel must hold out for its justified demands in the Lebanon talks.

— Lebanon hardened its stand at the negotiating round at Khaldah last Thursday presumably as a result of Syrian pressure. Learning of this setback, Shultz decided to schedule his visit promptly to try to avert further slippage in the progress achieved in the talks thus far.

— The scheduling of Shultz's visit was decided before the President and the secretary learned of Thursday's reversal. Until Thursday,the talks had seemed to be going well, and Shultz intended to wrap up the accord and perhaps participate in the signing during his trip. By the time news came of the new difficulties in the negotiations, it was too late to cancel.

Cabinet sources stressed yesterday, however, that no matter which explanation is correct, Israel is determined not to be pressured into making new concessions on its part in return for

Lebanese concessions that have already been made — and revoked — once before.

'Warm' Welcome Expected

TA251105 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Apr 83 pp 1, 7

[Report by Arye Tzimuqi, Yehoshu'a Halamish, and Ze'ev Baraq]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Begin will hold a ministerial consultation on Wednesday morning to consolidate the moves and positions on the Lebanese issue in preparation for the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz, who will arrive in Israel Wednesday afternoon.

George Shultz will be received in Israel with friendliness and warmth, especially since he has recently struggled within the Reagan administration against exerting pressure on Jerusalem to soften its positions, and because he was the main element responsible for the administration's decision to release to Israel the technological know-how necessary for the production of the Lavi fighter. In the Cabinet meeting yesterday, Israel emphasized its desire to help Shultz in his attempt to pull the Lebanese negotiations out of the mud and lead them to a successful conclusion, despite the doubts arising on this issue due to the tough position the Lebanese have recently taken.

In the talks with Shultz in Jerusalem, Israel will also raise the issue of the increased Soviet involvement in Syria and the tension with this neighboring country. Shultz will hear from the Israeli leaders that we have no intention of fighting Syria, and certainly not against the background of the artificial tension being created by the Syrians.

Peace Negotiations in Khaldah Appear Stalled

Arens-Shamir Meeting

TA221234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Israeli leaders held consultations this morning on what to do now in the negotiations with Lebanon. Attending were Defense Minister Arens, Foreign Minister Shamir, and other officials. Today's consultations come in the wake of a reported turn for the worst in the Khaldah talks in Lebanon yesterday. Israeli officials say the Lebanese wanted to keep things up in the air rather than put them in writing. David Essing reports:

[Essing] The Lebanese refusal to put in writing what the Israeli side thought was already agreed upon has disturbed the Israeli negotiators. Israeli officials are playing down the development, saying there is no crisis. In the past, the Lebanese had also gone back on their word at times. And the Israeli officials add: We will have to wait until the next round on Monday to see whether we are back to square one, or whether this is simply a Lebanese time-out.

While this is the official Israeli reaction, it was only last week that Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spoke about a possible agreement within 2 weeks. Lebanon's attitude, then, does not augur well. If the Lebanese refuse to put such key issues as the security arrangements into writing, this in effect means that they are not going to finalize the nuts and bolts of the agreement: that is, the role of militia leader Major Sa'd Haddad, that of UNIFIL, and also the type of military cooperation with Israel to keep the PLO from returning to south Lebanon.

For some time now, several Israeli Cabinet ministers — Ben-Porat, Tzipori, Uzan, Moda'i, and possibly others — have felt that Israel is being led down the garden path in the negotiations. They argue that Israel should consider only her interests in Lebanon, and this has been sharply underlined by the recent upsurge in terrorist attacks. Ben-Porat's proposal for a partial Israeli withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River in the south is now on the agenda of Sunday's Cabinet meeting. Prime Minister Begin will decide whether it will be formally discussed.

Shamir Comments on Talks

TA221640 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1510 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Tel Aviv, 22 April (ITIM) — When an agreement is reached with Lebanon, a timetable for the withdrawal of the foreign forces from that country will also be set. Though it is being said that the Syrians will not withdraw, and though there are also assessments to this effect, we hope that the Syrians will indeed leave Lebanon. However, if they do not, we will stay, dig in, and find the solutions for staying and defending our security until all the foreign forces leave. These remarks were made by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today in an address at the commercial and industrial club in Tel Aviv.

The foreign minister also said that the atmosphere in the region is tense, and that preparations are underway. "We say that this tension is completely artificial. Israel wants peace. We have no role in this tension, nor do we have any interest in fighting Syria, neither today nor tomorrow. The Syrians know that and so do their allies. We also know that they do not want war, for they know that they stand to gain nothing by it."

Shamir said that events in Lebanon today cannot be evaluated without looking at what is happening in the region. "Take, for example, the Reagan plan. The purpose of all that U.S. activity was not to establish peace with Israel. Over recent months we have not heard the Arabs utter a single word about their wanting peace with Israel. In our view, the purpose was to exploit this golden opportunity and latch onto one of the parts of President Reagan's speech of 1 September. The intention is to remove Israel from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and push us back to the 1967 borders. Our argument is strengthened by Reagan's letter to the Syrian president which dealt with Israel's withdrawing from the Golan Heights. Those are vain words, for that will never happen. We will not return to the 1967 borders, and the entire people of Israel hold that view."

The foreign minister went on to mention that the terrorist leaders oppose King Husayn's being the spokesman for the Palestinian cause. "They fear that in that way, the Palestinian cause will disappear and become just another border dispute. In that way too, the scarecrow of a stateless and homeless nation would also disappear. They told Husayn that demographically, in his country everything leans toward the Palestinians. And indeed, of the 2 million inhabitants of Jordan, 1 and 1/2 million are of Palestinian origin. Can it really be said that that people has neither state nor home?" the foreign minister asked.

Shamir said that there is now a certain sobering up in the political world and the United States. Both understand that the Arab states will not make peace with a weak Israel. "Peace between Israel and the Arab countries can be achieved through the Camp David process, as it was with Egypt. However, this can only be done through the making of a national decision by the country that is a candidate for peace with us. Only if Jordan decides by itself — despite the embargo imposed on it by the terrorist organizations — can we achieve peace with it. If the Western world understands that, we will achieve peace."

The foreign minister vehemently lashed out at those who said they suspected Israel of taking advantage of the explosion at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut to prove, as it were, that the IDF's stay in Lebanon should be extended. "All that is untrue. We do not want to stay in Lebanon even a day longer than necessary. We want to leave that country as soon as possible, but only if our demands are accepted — and we are demanding the absolute minimum."

Shamir continued that the terrible disaster at the embassy only provides a further demonstration of the problem's seriousness and the danger of the terrorism that has not been completely wiped out in Lebanon. It also shows how important cooperation is between us and the United States.

On the talks in Lebanon, the foreign minister said they have been going on now for 4 months and that as negotiations go, that is not such a long time. "We will stick to our demands, even though the U.S. representatives do not always help us. There are difficulties, but we hope to conclude the negotiations soon and achieve an agreement we can live with."

Speaking on the recent casualties among IDF soldiers in Lebanon, Shamir said that our heart bleeds for every soldier of ours who falls. However, the pain and grief must not make us lose control of ourselves. "We must reach an agreement that will maintain security in this part of the Middle East. It is inconceivable that we would leave Lebanon and those criminals would go back to the same places. For the sake of security in our border area, we want to cooperate with people we know and who know us, and who are motivated to maintain security. We are not just being stubborn in our insistence on one particular man. It is also a commitment to someone."

In conclusion, the foreign minister mentioned the elements hostile to Israel in and outside of our region. "They are anticipating and lying in wait for Israel to fall, for the morale to drop here, for soldiers to die, and for the flag of defeat and surrender to be raised. We will stand up in that war too, as well as in negotiations for peace. We will take strength, grit our teeth, and keep our composure. We will do all that with an eye to continuing negotiations and efforts to ensure security and maintain peace."

Both Sides Appear Firm

TA240619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] The nearer a decision about an arrangement in Lebanon gets, the more aggressive voices are being heard from all sides. Amin al-Jumayyil is making public threats and is retracting his promises to Israel about the agreement [heskem] with Israel. Damascus is threatening and changing its forces in Lebanon and this week, as though to complete the picture, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is coming to the area. This is how political sources regard the situation that is emerging here.

This morning Defense Minister Arens is to report to the ministers on the action taken by Israel in view of the new military deployment by the Syrians in Lebanon and the ministers will express their views. What emerges from the consultations held in Arens' office at the end of last week about the state of the negotiations with Lebanon is that there is no intention to change positions in the talks. We can only estimate that if Shultz succeeds in concluding [lesakem] the system of supervising the security arrangements as Israel sees them or, in other words, if the system is based on a committee common to Israel and Lebanon, with joint patrols and other measures, there may be more Israeli flexibility on the matter of Major Sa'd Haddad's status. If not — and this is not a threat, as political sources have told me — Amin al-Jumayyil will push Israel into a position that will lead to an IDF withdrawal to the Al-Awwali River, the establishment of a security fence in that region, and Al-Jumayyil's remaining the president of East Beirut and even this by the skin of his teeth.The Americans, so the same senior elements are saying angrily, ill remain in Beirut with their ruined embassy and the Syrians in another part of Lebanon.

At the end of the week, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche met with U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis for a discussion about George Shultz' itinerary. The most urgent matter, from the Americans' viewpoint, of course, is to find the arrangement in Lebanon. Shultz will meet with the prime minister, the foreign minister, the defense minister, and the negotiating team. There is no clear information yet about whether Shultz will shuttle between Jerusalem and Beirut until the arrangement between them is achieved. As has happened in the past, it is only possible to evaluate that there will be no thorough discussion in the Cabinet before Shultz's visit.

25 April Talks 'Decisive'

TA251036 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Apr 83

[Text] Another round of talks between Israel and Lebanon, with the participation of the United States, opened this morning in Khaldah. The head of the Lebanese delegation said that today's

session would be decisive on matters still in dispute, since the other sessions that had been scheduled for this week have been canceled because of Secretary of State Shultz' visit. The head of the Israel delegation expressed the hope that the U.S. secretary of state would speed up the contacts to get an agreement achieved soon. This report was brought to us by our correspondent Me'ir Einstein.

Cabinet Discusses Partial Withdrawal Proposal

TA241530 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Cabinet today discussed a proposal to pull the IDF forces in Lebanon back to the Al-'Awwali River due to the prolonged negotiations with Lebanon and the numerous IDF casualties caused in the meantime. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is in the studio to report on the Cabinet meeting:

[Schiffer] Several times in the past the Cabinet was going to discuss the proposal to unilaterally pull the IDF back in Lebanon to the Al-'Awwali River. Today, finally, the issue was discussed and it was decided not to decide. Reports preceding the meeting said that a discussion would be held about the Syrian deployment in Lebanon. Actually, Defense Minister Moshe Arens did not brief the ministers but referred them to the current report issued by the IDF's Intelligence Branch and which was sent to the government's secretariat for the scrutiny of the Cabinet members. Some ministers were offended by this, but the issue was not discussed.

What took place in the Cabinet meeting then? Yitzhaq Shamir reported about the state of the negotiations with Lebanon, evaluating Amin al-Jumayyil's firm remarks against the arrangements with Israel as a bargaining chip in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit in the region.

Ministers Aharon Uzan and Mordekhay Ben-Porat raised their proposal to pull the IDF back in Lebanon. Minister Uzan demanded that a decision on this be made before Shultz' arrival so that the U.S. secretary knows we are no longer ready to pay the price. Minister Ben-Porat explained his proposal by saying that the weakness of the Lebanese does not leave any hope they will be able to implement the agreements reached with Israel. Even if they sign them, Syria will prevent them from being implemented.

The foreign minister, supported by the prime minister, suggested that no decision be made, and that it be made possible for Shultz to conduct negotiations in the region without this kind of pressure.

Former Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon today talked at length about the political-security issues on the agenda. He warned that action has not been taken lately against terrorism and the terrorists' organizing in Lebanon. I do not see a need for a large-scale action again, but some action should be taken against the terrorists. We never allowed terrorism to harm us without operating against it, he said. He added that the Americans will ultimately lose their hold in Lebanon because terrorism was not liquidated.

As for Amin al-Jumayyil's declarations, Sharon said that his stance, as expressed, is the American one. Al-Jumayyil is fully cooperating with the Americans. George Shultz is seeking achievements now and we should not give him any gestures of concessions at the expense of Israel's security, Sharon said, expressing the hope that the talk about the need to make things easier for the United States in the wake of President Reagan's remarks about the PLO will not affect the visit. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i also demanded that decisions be made before Shultz' arrival.

Ministers Burg, Hayim Corfu, and Simha Ehrlich also spoke during the Cabinet meeting. However, as said, no decisions were adopted.

Sarid Says Most MK's Knew War's Goal Was Beirut

TA231417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] MK Yosi Sarid has revealed that most Knesset members had known already before the outbreak of the war in Lebanon that its ultimate goal would be to reach Beirut and link up with the Christian forces there.

MK Sarid disclosed that 12 hours before the beginning of the war, a defense personality appeared before an inter-partisan forum of Knesset members and briefed it about its ultimate goal. According to him, he was the only person in that forum who objected to the war, while all the rest subscribed to the decision to reach Beirut. Our correspondent David Friedman reports that MK Sarid made these remarks in a public interview in Beersheva.

Peres Denies Sarid Remarks

TA241841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres says there is no foundation to the report that the intention to reach Beirut during the Peace for Galilee campaign was known to most Knesset members 12 hours before the forces moved into action. Our correspondent says that the report on the prior information was released by MK Yosi Sarid at the end of the week.

PLO Said Refusing To Allow IRC To See POW's

TA241105 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Apr 83 p 8

[Report by Swiss correspondent Freddy Rom]

[Text] The PLO has apparently decided to step up the war of nerves around the six Israeli prisoners of war it is holding. Recently PLO members have been refusing to let the International Red Cross visit the six prisoners, apparently in order to keep their place of imprisonment from being discovered.

The IRC Spokesman in Geneva confirmed yesterday in a telephone conversation with YEDI'OT AHARONOT that throughout April the PLO members have not permitted the Red

Cross to visit the prisoners. In the past, visits to the prisoners were permitted once a month, but it has already been more than a month since the last visit.

In the meantime, on Friday, 22 April, Ahmad Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front — General Command continued to accuse Israel of holding up exchanges of prisoners. He said that an arrangement for such exchanges "now depends on one sole condition."

Jibril, whose organization is holding two IDF soldiers who were captured last September in the Lebanese Al-Biqa', said that the "sole condition" was the release of 47 members of his organization "who are jailed in Israel." "Israel has refused to admit to holding 47 of our members," the terrorist leader said.

U.S. Embassy Bombers Thought To Be Shi'ites

TA240928 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by Hirsh Goodman]

[Text] Sources in Israel are convinced that the car-bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut last Monday was carried out by a fundamentalist Shi'ite organization closely connected to Iran and Syria.

Responsiblity for the attack was claimed by an organization calling itself Jihad al-Islami (Moslem Holy War), which experts here believe is the code name of a breakaway faction of the Lebanese Shi'ite 'Amal militia. The group, headed by Husayn Husawi, is headquartered in Ba'labakk in northeastern Lebanon, and is thought to have only several dozen committed members. It is known to receive logistical support, arms, and training from Iran and Syria.

The Syrians, who control the Ba'labakk area, have also provided immunity from the Lebanese authorities. Musawi's group has the support of hundreds of Iranian volunteers who arrived in Lebanon shortly after the outbreak of the war last June. These volunteers are also headquartered in Ba'labakk.

Analysts here say there were three objectives behind the blast:

— It was intended to disrupt the ongoing negotiations on the future of Lebanon — a future that would mean a complete Syrian-PLO withdrawal from Lebanon.

— It was intended to create an opposition climate in the U.S., putting pressure on Washington to withdraw the American forces from Lebanon, or at least limit their involvement in Lebanese politics in the future.

— It was intended to show the government of Lebanon that not even the support of a formidable ally like the U.S. can stabilize the Christian regime of President Amin al-Jumayyil in what they regard as a Moslem country.

It is not yet known how the car-bomb was detonated, but experts say that even if it exploded electronically, it would not have required great sophistication to prepare the bomb. Experts say it is not difficult to find 250 kilo of TNT or a military vehicle in Lebanon today. They add that it also is not difficult to evade roadblocks.

Musawi's organization is said to be linked to the Iraqi opposition party, also supported by Iran and Syria, which claimed responsibility for two almost identical car-bombings in Baghdad last week. The Iraqi opposition party is composed exclusively of Shi'ites who, although they constitute 66 percent of Iraq's population, have no power in Saddam Husayn's Sunni-controlled government.

U.S. Reportedly Forewarned

TA240638 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] When the IDF began withdrawing from West Beirut, Israeli security elements met with Ambassador Philip Habib and his aide Morris Draper for a discussion of the terms under which the Marines from the Multinational Force would enter Beirut. Among other things, the Americans said that they would not enter areas where the IDF was located, and would delay taking over various city quarters until the withdrawal from West Beirut was completed.

In one of the discussions held on this matter, Habib and Draper were asked to warn the Americans in Beirut that their embassy was likely to be a target for a terrorist attack. Israel demanded [darsha] that it be permitted to leave security personnel in the west of the city, to work against terrorist cells left there and stop attacks. The Americans ignored the warnings and turned down the Israeli demand [derisha] for a continued presence in the west of the city.

The Americans also prevented the entry of Israeli security personnel. One day they found a group of security personnel in the west of the city and soldiers from the Lebanese Army held them up for several hours. A senior Israeli source told us that if an investigation committee were to be established in the United States to investigate the chain of events that preceded the explosion of the embassy, it would emerge that a grave blunder had occurred here. The Americans ignored specific warnings of the attack and stopped Israel from taking action against those who carried it out.

Syrian Military Activity Reportedly Increasing

Armored Vehicle Buildup

TA241314 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1254 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon [VOL] radio station reports that over the last few hours the Syrians have been sending dozens of tanks and other armored vehicles to the Al-Matn Mountains area in Lebanon. The radio reported that the IDF is also sending into

the contact areas [ezorey maga'] with the Syrians tanks and 155-mm cannons.

According to VOL, the major Israeli reinforcement activity is in the area of Sawfar on the Beirut-Damascus Road, and on Jabal al-Barukh. VOL also says that the IDF has recently begun establishing a third military airfield in Lebanon, in the western Al-Biqa' region. The IDF is also building a military port north of Sidon, in the town of Al-Jiyah. It should be noted that these reports have not been confirmed by any other source.

Soviets in Lebanon

TA250923 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Apr 83 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] The Soviet advisers are in Syrian units in Lebanese territory, and this must be viewed as a turning point on the part of the Soviet Union and a readiness to infringe on the sovereignty of a country that has not invited them.

Authoritative sources say that whereas in the past the Russians took good care that their advisers stayed on Syrian territory and did not move into Lebanon with any Syrian units, a substantive change has now occurred in that respect. The first signs of this development came after the end of the battles in the Peace for Galilee operation, when Soviet experts came to certain battle areas to gether information on the lessons which the war held for them. Thereafter, more and more Soviet advisers were seen in the Syrian units, and more recently it has been reported that these advisers are deployed in various Syrian units in Lebanon.

Jerusalem Arabic Comment

JN241528 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 24 Apr 83

["Observation" by Ya'qub Khazmah]

[Text] There are still reports of mounting tension between Syria and Israel due to Syria's military preparations, either for an attack on Israel or for defense purposes. If these preparations are for defense purposes, then this is Syria's affair, although Syria's fears of an Israeli attack are mere illusions. This is because Israel has often said that it does not harbor any evil intentions against Syria and that it has no intention whatsoever of attacking Syria.

But if the Syrian military preparations are for an attack on Israel, the situation is of course different. An attack on Israel would be playing with fire. We are not here threatening Syria, but simply warning it of the serious consequencies of any adventure it might embark on, out of our concern for its interests and those of the Syrian people. Syria's fingers have been burned in the fire of war several times without it leading to a solution of the problem. On the contrary, it only led to more disasters and tragedies for the Syrian people, who do not deserve this.

Syrian-Israeli differences are not difficult to solve. If Syria does not want to negotiate with Israel, then that is its affair, of course, but it does not have to solve these differences by means of armed force. Force has never solved problems. On the contary, it only complicates existing problems. If Syria is thinking of depending on the USSR in any attack on Israel, it must understand a few things. For instance, it is not definite that the USSR wants Syria to embark on an adventure the results of which it knows beforehand. The USSR is not the only superpower with interests in this region. There is also another superpower.

At any rate, it is not too late for Syria to reconsider its position. Nor is it too late for Syria to consider matters rationally, just as Israel is doing. The region has had enough wars. The outbreak of another unwarranted war is not in anyone's interest.

Cabinet Decides on Nuclear Power Station

TA241842 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] The Cabinet has decided in principle on the establishment of a nuclear power plant. Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i submitted this proposal to the Cabinet. The Cabinet has entrusted Science and Development Minister Yuval Ne'eman with the task of submitting a detailed proposal, while the energy minister was asked to take action to promote the establishment of nuclear power plants. The Energy Ministry was authorized to set up a directorate for promoting the establishment of power plants.

LIBYA

AL-MAJALLAH: Government Seeking SAM-5's

PM221559 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 23-29 Apr 83 p 9

[From the "AL-MAJALLAH Envoys" Feature]

[Text] Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources have said that Libya is making overtures to the Soviet leadership in order to obtain SAM-5's. Libya has justified its request for these missiles with the claim that there is a U.S. threat to its territories and coasts and that some aircraft of the U.S. fleet violate its airspace. Libya submitted this request following the agreement in principle with the Soviet Union on concluding a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It is understood that Syria is the only Arab country which has obtained the Soviet long-range SAM-5's.

MOROCCO

Rabat Reports 'Arafat Comments on Arrival

LD222119 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Morocco this afernoon accompanied by a Palestinian delegation comprised of Mr Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajjani, and Mr Abu Mazin, both members of the PLO Executive Committee. Mr Yasir 'Arafat talked to newsmen at Fes Airport:

[Begin recording]['Arafat] As you know during my previous visit I began talks with his majesty the king concerning the situation in our region — in his capacity, not only as the king of the Moroccan Kingdom but also as chairman of the Arab summit conference and of the Jerusalem Committee — especially with regard to the talks between us and our brothers in Jordan and also with regard to all the aspects of the Palestinian issue: the situation of our kinsmen in the occupied territory, the situation of our people under Israeli occupation in Lebanon, and the situation arising from Zionist crimes against Islamic and Christian sanctuaries in Jerusalem, Hebron, and elsewhere, and from other crimes being perpetrated against our people which have gone so far as the poisoning of our schoolboys and schoolgirls.

As you know, these talks were postponed a while when I begged leave from his majesty the king for visits to Prague, Hungary and Romania which I had previously scheduled. (?As you know,) they were rather quick visits so I could come back and continue the talks with my brothers, with his majesty the king.

[Question] Mr Chairman, what is the possibility of reactivating the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue after the recent meeting in Tunis of the PLO Executive Committee?

[Answer] That was a major topic on the agenda of yesterday's meeting of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. We arrived in Tunis at dawn yesterday and began meeting yesterday morning. Sessions continued until dawn today. This point was high on the agenda, and after reviewing the situation with our brothers, the brother members of the Executive Committee adopted the line we had followed regarding these talks, including the good efforts exerted by his majesty the king in this respect. This will be a basic topic in the talks we are going to hold with his majesty the king. We will brief him on the details of what went on yesterday at the Executive Committee. [end recording]

Mr Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed at the airport by the adviser to his majesty, Mr Ahmed Ben Soudah; the governor of the Fes district, Moulay Mehdi Alaoui Lamrani; and Abu Marwan, the PLO representative in Morocco.

Hassan Receives 'Arafat, Officials

LD232338 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II this evening received Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, at the Fes Royal Palace. The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Mr Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee; Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajjani and Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], both members of the PLO Executive Committee; Mr Khalid al-Hassan, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Palestinian National Council; and Mr Abu Marwan, representative of the PLO in Morocco. On the Moroccan side it was attended by the advisers to his majesty Ahmed Ben Soudah and Mohamed Awwad.

After the meeting Mr Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation left Fes-Sais airport for Tunisia. He was seen off at the airport by the adviser to his majesty the king, Mr Ahmed Ben Soudah; the governor of the Fes district, Moulay Mehdi Alaoui Lamrani; and Mr Abu Marwan, representative of the PLO in Morocco.

ETHIOPIA

New Foreign Minister Appointed 23 April

EA231923 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Provisional Military Government this evening announced that the Provisional Military Government had made appointments and effected transfers of nine government officials as follows:

Minister of Information and National Guidance

Minister of Foreign Affairs
COPWE Representative in Eritrea Region
Minister of Culture and Sports
Minister of Education

Minister of Health Comrade Dr Brig Gen Gizaw Tsehai
Commission commissioner
Permanent Secretary in the
Ministry of Health, Sports and Physical Training
Commission deputy commissioner

More on Cabinet Reshuffle

NC231140 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 23 Apr 83

[All spellings of Ethiopian names and places as received]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Apr 23 (AFP) — Ethiopia's ruling Military Council, or Dergue, continuing its Cabinet reshuffle, tonight announced the appointment of Tekola Dejene as minister of agriculture, replacing Geremew Debele who was named ambassador-designate.

It also appointed Bekele Tamrat as permanent secretary for finance, the number two job in the Finance Ministry, transferring Desta Bishaw, his predecessor, to head the Finance Department in the Office of the Council of Ministers.

The new agriculture minister was first deputy secretary-general of the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council, the body responsible for the country's planning and development.

Teferra Haile Selassie, a former minister of labour, was also named to head the Administration and Social Affairs Department in the Office of the Council of Ministers. The Dergue further named a number of Central Committee members of the Commission Organizing the Party of the Working People of Ethiopia (COPWE) as military commissars in several provinces. Among them were Brigadier General Kumlachew Dejene for Eritrea Province, Col. Demeke Fanta for Tigrai, Lt Col Gabre-Maskal Azibite for eastern Harrar and Major Girma Ayele for southeastern Bale Province. Major Girma was also promoted to Lt Colonel.

Comrade Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, COPWE Central Committee member
Comrade Goshu Wolde, COPWE Central Committee member
Comrade Tefera Wonde, COPWE Central Committee member
Comrade Girma Yilma, COPWE Central Committee member
Comrade Bilelign Mandefro, COPWE Central Committee member
Sports and Physical Training
Comrade Tsegaw Ayele

Comrade Dr Col Getachew Tadese
Comrade Tesfaye Shafo

The appointments and transfers follow a government reshuffle announced Tuesday night in which Dergue Secretary-General Fikre-Selassie was named deputy premier.

Further on Appointments

EA222002 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
1700 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] A Preliminary Military Administrative Council [PMAC] spokesman this evening announced that the Provisional Military Government had appointed and reshuffled a number of government officials as follows:

Comrade Tekola Dejene, COPWE Central Committee member: minister of agriculture.

Comrade Geremew Debele: COPWE Central Committee member and ambassador designate.

Comrade Tefera Haile Selassie: head of administration and social affairs in the Office of the Council of Ministers, with the rank of deputy minister.

Comrade Desta Bishaw, COPWE Central Committee alternate member: head of financial affairs in the Office of the Council of Ministers, with the rank of permanent secretary.

Comrade Bekele Tamerat: permanent secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Comrade Brigadier General Kumelachew Dejene, COPWE Central Committee member: military commissar of Eritrea region.

Comrade Colonel Tadese Ferede: military commissar of Sidamo region.

Comrade Col Demeke Fanta, COPWE Central Committee member: military commissar of Tigrai region.

Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Gebre Meskel Azbete, COPWE Central Committee member: military commissar of Hararghe region.

Comrade Abebe Haile Selassie: military commissar of Wollega region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Major Girma Ayele, COPWE Central Committee member: military commissar of Bale region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Haile Meles: military commissar of Shoa region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Tirunel Habte Selassie: military commissar of Gojam region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Belay Bitwe: military commissar of Arsi region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Major Gebre Giorgis Berhane, COPWE Central Committee alternate member: military commissar of Wollo region, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Comrade Captain Dejene Wondem Agegnehu, COPWE Central Committee member: military commissar of Keffa region, with the rank of major.

Comrade Captain Mezgebe Woke, COPWE Central Committee alternate member: military commissar of Addis Ababa with the rank of major.

Comrade Gebre Hiwot Gebre Agziabeher: military commissar of Gondar region, with the rank of major.

Comrade Major Tasew Negash: military commissar of Gamu Gofa region.

Comrade Bekele Degu: Military commissar of Illubabor region with the rank of major.

KENYA

Arap Moi Alludes to External Interference

EA221234 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 0830 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Speech by President Daniel arap Moi in Nairobi on occasion of National Tree-Planting Day — live]

[Excerpt] There is peace in the country. No one should bring up anything which causes disquiet to wananchi. We have peace, but the devil will not rest because he does not want any country to be peaceful. Let us continue to safeguard our own lives as we are doing now. And those who would like to see Kenya fall into chaos should be aware that God is always with us. We have helped ourselves.

I am not interested in anything else. All I say is that I do not want trouble. Many people are causing trouble in various ways. I do not want to repeat what has recently been said.

I am satisfied with what has been said by my ministers and members of Parliament. I do not want to interfere. They have declared openly that we are a free state.

You will never hear of me going to Tanzania and trying to reform Tanzania. You will never hear of me going to Uganda and seeking to correct Uganda's internal affairs. Nor will I go to Britain to correct the way in which they run their affairs. Nor will I do so in India, because India, like the others, is an independent state. I do not want anyone to provoke me here. We are running our affairs in our own way.

Our primary task is to safeguard the lives of the majority. Let one thing be remembered — that 129 people have died. People are forgetting that. If 129 people have died, how should wefeel? Therefore, I should say that God has protected us and we thank God that we continue to live in peace. I do not want anyone to come to Kenya and say whatever he pleases.

Is there any other country in Africa which is more free than Kenya? Is there? All Kenyan newspapers are free to the extent of nearly entering people's bedrooms. Who has been arrested, anyone?

One thing I should tell you, my wananchi, is that if one does something to harm another he must realize that the result will affect us all and no one will be spared.

I am telling you, my government officials, that everybody has become a (?bugbear). All government secrets — is there anyone who does not know them? Even the monkeys in the bush are on the verge of knowing them.

There are laws to protect secret government files but there are no secrets that are not known everywhere.

SOMALIA

President Addresses Information Ministry Leaders

EA211856 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre this afternoon received at the Presidency all the senior officials of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance and affiliated agencies.

The meeting, which was attended by SDR Minister of Information and National Guidance Challe Col Mohamed Omar Jess, was addressed by President Challe Siad. In his address, Challe Siad praised the officials and other workers of the ministry and affiliated agencies for the noteworthy and unforgettable role they have performed in the service of national development since the birth of the October Revolution.

Addressing himself to the work of the ministry, the president said: Yours is a sensitive responsibility, calling for care, vigilance, self-supervision, honesty, dedication, patriotism, and discipline. The president added: It is only along such a path that the individual can achieve and fulfill his national obligations and win public confidence. Challe Siad added that by applying proper training and discipline, every officer could inspire workers to be dedicated and devoted to their role in nation-building and in the promotion of social development.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre urged the senior officers of the Ministry of Information and National Guidance and the affiliated agencies to redouble their efforts and vigilance so as to mobilize the general masses into performing their role in national development and the defense of their unity and land.

UGANDA

Belgian Cargo Aircraft To Be Released

EA231951 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Uganda has agreed to release a cargo jet chartered by the Belgium Government to fly arms to Rwanda, which had been grounded at Entebbe airport for the past week.

The Ugandan authorities reportedly impounded the German-registered Boeing 707 after discovering live ammunition which were not declared on the relevant document. However, the Belgium Government maintained that failure to declare the ammunition was an oversight. It maintained that the cargo was destined for the Rwandan Armed Forces under a standing cooperation agreement with Belgium. The intention by the Ugandan Government to release the jet was announced by an official of SABENA Belgium airlines.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Kolingba Brings Political Leader Into Government

AB220651 Paris AFP in English 0349 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Bangui, April 22 (APR) — The military regime in the Central African Republic on Thursday brought a political party leader into the government for the first time.

He is Francois Gueret, head of the Movement for Democracy and Independence. He was named high commissioner of state under General Andre Kolingba, who presides over the ruling Military Committee of National Recovery. It is the eighth such appointment.

Mr Gueret, a lawyer, was justice minister in 1979-80 in the government of President David Dacko, who handed over power to the military in September 1981. After resigning from the cabinet, Mr Gueret founded his party, but did not stand in the presidential elections of March 1918.

General Kolingba banned political activity when he took power, but his choice yesterday of Mr Gueret was widely interpreted here as a political overture. The new high commissioner is expected to carry out special missions for President Kolingba.

CHAD

Aid Delays Causing 'Chronic' Food Shortages

AB201037 Paris AFP in English 0950 GMT 20 Apr 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, April 20 (AFP) — Some Chadians are living off leaves owing to chronic food shortages here caused by delays in reception of food aid, according to medical sources in the Chadian capital. The central region of Guera and Biltine in eastern Chad have been the hardest hit, and the lack of food has forced inhabitants of Mongo, Bilkine and Abou Deia, the main Guera towns, to eat boiled leaves and tubers to survive, the sources said.

In the Biltine, breeders and farmers have streamed towards Sudan and southern Chad which is also seriously affected by the food shortages.

The "chronic malnutrition" noted by medical teams which have visited the affected regions, has been caused by desert encroachment and the 17 years of warfare in Chad which led to a constant movement by the people of these regions.

Famine cases have also been reported in Kanem region, near Lake Chad and in the eastern Ouaddai region, notably in Adre village. In northern Chad, where it has not rained for three years, the situation has "progressively deteriorated" according to doctors who nevertheless admit that the nomad populations have resisted the drought more successfully.

The health situation is closely linked to the "constant undernutrition" recorded in these provinces.

There have been no vaccination campaigns for Chadian children for five years, and measles and whooping-cough epidemics have killed many children. Meningitis has appeared in the south, and a number of adults have contracted tuberculosis.

The drought has also caused a sharp drop in the amount of pasture land and in the number of herds in the north, east and centre of the country. Some 80 percent of the livestock has been hit by cattle plague. A vaccination campaign successfully stamped out the disease but most farmers lost a third of their herds.

The nutritional and health problems have arisen at a time when emergency food aid for Chad is marking time, and the Chadian authorities will not be able to touch the 50,000 metric tons of food allocated by donor countries until the rainy season begins at the end of May.

At the beginning of this month, the food available stood at 10,836 tons, and only 4,000 extra tons, of which more than half is on the way from Abeche, in eastern Chad, is expected to arrive in Chad within the next six weeks. The remaining 39,000 tons provided by humanitarian aid will reportedly arrive in Chad, according to United Nations agencies, in two-and-a-half months time, and will probably not reach the interior because of the rains. But a road link between the port of Lagos, the Nigerian capital, and Abeche, has just been set up.

Some experts fear that the food currently available will be insufficient for most of the regions to keep going until the first harvests in November. The experts pointed out that a mass movement of people into the less-stricken southern regions at a time when the first rainfall is favorable for planting, could compromise Chad's agricultural development in the medium term.

Meanwhile the "exceptional" food aid obtained by Chad for this year because of the civil war which paralysed economic activity, will not be renewed next year, according to the experts.

Government Introduces 'Protectionist' Measures

AB211144 Paris AFP in English 1131 GMT 21 Apr 83

[By Bernard Degioanni]

[Text] Ndjamena, April 21 (AFP) — Chadian authorities have introduced a range of protectionist measures in a bid to give fresh impetus to the economy, cut back on imports and put a stop to smuggling from Nigeria and Cameroon. Economy and Trade Minister Ali Djalbord Diard said that the aim was to progressively halt imports of goods which are also made locally, once industry in the war-scarred country is in a position to meet domestic needs.

Among the initial steps, the authorities have banned cigarette imports from Nigeria and sugar imports from Nigeria and Cameroon.

"At the beginning of this month more than 50 percent of the cigarettes in the country were coming from Nigeria, when we already have a cigarette factory at Moundou (in southern Chad). The cost to the economy was about one billion CFA francs (about three million dollars) annually," Mr Djalbord Diard said.

The minister said he planned to increase the capacity of the sugar refinery at Sarh (also in the south), although he acknowledged that the ban on imported sugar would not have an immediate effect on the economy, since the Sarh refinery already produced 26,000 tons of the 30,000 tons consumed in Chad each year.

Other protectionist measures will eventually cover oil, soap and textiles, all of which are produced here. These will come once the production capacity of the different factories, most of which are in the south, has been increased to match the market.

Meanwhile as an anti-inflation exercise the minister has fixed prices of all shop goods at 1978 levels. Price control inspectors with a police escort are already implementing this order.

The minister explained that it was "not right that public servants, who have been on half-pay for the past four months because of our economic problems, should be exploited by unscrupulous traders."

As part of the operation, the price of a bottle of beer has dropped by almost half, while meat prices have also been forced down.

Mr Djalbord Diard openly admits that after 1979, at the start of the most recent period of civil strife, the economy ceased to exist for all practical purposes. Banks still have not reopened, and a shortage of transport and lack of major trading companies continue to hinder a new economic take-off.

The minister said that the government did not possess any reliable statistics. "We have been unable to supply a team here from the World Bank with any figures covering our main imports. We also need to reorganize our customs department, which is noted for large-scale fraud that has deprived the state of a large chunk of revenue."

Other projects on the drawing board include revived plans for a petrol refinery near Lake Chad, which should put a stop to smuggling of oil products from Nigeria. The refinery, which was first mooted in 1979, could be built within 19 months, according to construction company executives.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Exiled Opposition Leader Threatens Violence

AB230614 Paris AFP in English 0402 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, April 23 (AFP) — An opposition leader in exile from Equatorial Guinea threatened here Friday to take up arms against the government in Malabo if it failed to respond to his movement's overtures.

The threat came from Manuel Ruben Ndondo, leader of the Democratic Rally for the Liberation of Equatorial Guinea (RDLGE), a grouping of four opposition parties set up in August 1980. Mr Ndongo is also coordinator of the Executive Council of Reorganisation, a provisional government in exile formed last month.

He told journalists yesterday he preferred "to persist in efforts at conciliation, but we have to fight if all peaceful means are exhausted. We are not always going to keep on with the struggle with our arms folded.

"We shall have perhaps to envisage other means, which the executive council will decide," Mr Ndongo said.

His own RDGLE had until now "never had recourse to violence" to achieve the democratisation of his country, Mr Ndongo noted.

He said they had met Equatorial Guinean ruler Lieutenant Colonel Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbazogo here last September, and the president had proposed reconciliation. But he still refused to guarantee Mr Ndongo's security should he return to Malabo, Mr Ndongo complained.

Foreign Affairs Minister Visits Bulgaria

For the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO version of the joint communique on the official visit of Francois Ngarukiyintwali, foreign affairms minister of the Republic of Rwanda, to Bulgaria from 10 to 13 April, see the Bulgaria section of the 22 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

BENIN

Upper Volta's Ouedraogo Arrives 22 April

AB222026 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Major Dr Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, chairman of the People's Salvation Council and head of state, arrived in Cotonou late this afternoon today from Accra. The head of state was welcomed on arrival by General Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin. This visit falls within the framework of a friendly tour of Entente Council states and ECOWAS countries, Maj Dr Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo stated.

The first round of talks between the two heads of state began at 1500 this afternoon with private talks between President Ouedraogo and President Kerekou, followed by a round-table talk involving both delegations.

President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo later visited the Cotonou autonomous harbor.

CAMEROON

Biya Thanks Shagari for Warm Reception

AB240741 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] His Excellency President Paul Biya is convinced that his recent official visit to Nigeria has greatly contributed to the establishment of an atmosphere of understanding and peace in the subregion. President Biya expressed his conviction in a message of gratitude to the Nigerian leader Shehu Shagari for the warm reception given him during his visit. The head of state said that the issues discussed during the 3-day visit portray the common determination of both countries to pursue the fruitful dialogue, preserve and consolidate past achievements and develop friendly links of cooperation and good neighborliness. He appreciated the quality and diversity of their discussions.

GHANA

Ouedraogo Ends Visit, Signs Joint Communique

AB221448 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Ghana and Upper Volta have reaffirmed their determination to cooperate in several fields to achieve true and meaningful lives for their two peoples. This is contained in a communique signed by the two countries at the end of a 3-day visit of the chairman of the People's Salvation Council of Upper Volta, Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo.

The two heads of state were satisfied that their relations continue to be as friendly as possible. In this connection they referred particularly to the Ghana-Upper Volta permanent joint commission for cooperation and agreed that it was the best means by which the two countries could most efficently restructure their relations. They noted that experts of the two governments had initiated useful steps toward the conclusion of several important agreements in the political, legal, commercial, scientific, health, cultural, transport and communication fields.

On the closure of their common border, the Upper Volta head of state noted with satisfaction Ghana's decision to open two additional border-crossing points with immediate effect at Hamile and Bawku-Kulungugu. During the visit, experts of the two countries reviewed the work already accomplished by them. They were pleased by the spirit of cooperation and deep understanding which pervaded the consultation and called upon them to expedite action on the draft agreements and proposals.

The two heads of state expressed concern over the machinations of certain foreign powers aimed at exterminating their popular democratic and national policies. On subregional cooperation, the two leaders recognized the urgent need for meaningful steps to be taken by member states of the West African subregion toward the early harmonization of their economies.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings accepted an invitation to pay a state visit to the Upper Volta in the near future. Earlier, the Upper Volta head of state was presented with a photo album on his visit, and a wooden stool by the chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings.

Major Ouedraogo has flown to the Republic of Benin to continue his tour of some West African states. He has already visited Togo.

GUINEA

Foreign Affairs Minister Visits Bulgaria

For the Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO version of the joint communique on the official visit of Dr Abdoulaye Toure, Politburo member of the Guinean Democratic Party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, to Bulgaria, 14-16 April, see the Bulgaria section of the 22 April Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny Addresses Nation on Teachers Strike

AB212327 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Speech by President Felix Houphouet-Boigny on the strike by secondary school teachers on 21 April in Abdijan — read by Justice Minister Camille Alliali]

[Text] Tonight I want to speak to you,the citizens of the Ivory Coast, on a most serious matter. I do so not only in my capacity as president of the republic or president of the Democratic Party of the Ivory Coast [PDCI], but also as an Ivorian, as a father. I would have liked to talk to you personally, but as I am feeling a little ill and am still lying in bed, I asked Minister Camille Alliali,

member of the Executive Committee, to read my statement.

I have always, as you are all aware, paid the greatest attention to national education, to the youth which is our hope for the future, to an educational program which should make our youth equal in knowledge and skills to the youth of the most developed countries. Thus, I can hardly understand the inadmissible behavior of some secondary school teachers, which pains me most. It is obvious that, however much I may want to pay the greatest attention to all their problems, I cannot in any way tolerate, so long as the country has confidence in me, a social body, however important it may be, establishing a state within a state by refusing collective discipline and by wanting to serve divisive and individual interests. Democracies die through their own weaknesses. My love of dialogue and tolerance, my love of man, could be interpreted as a weakness. I have told you that we are facing a global crisis which affects all countries, however great they may be. And we must adopt austerity measures which, if agreed to by everyone without exception in the sole interest of the country, can help us overcome this situation.

We have to accept the truth and not deceive ourselves by voicing sterile criticism which ignores the harsh realities of the world we live in. We can only count on our own hands. I publicly stated this in the toast I gave during President Mitterrand's visit, when I stressed that if a great nation experienced the drop in exports we are experiencing, one could imagine the crisis which that country would face. Our coffee used to be 3,000 CFA francs a kilogram, cocoa was 2,000 CFA francs, prices which may have been high, too high, and because of that there was wild speculation. Shortly thereafter,because of this international speculation that we have always condemned, the purchase price of our cash crops fell to less than 500 CFA francs a kilogram. It is true that for the past few weeks, there has been a constant rise in these prices, but our purchasing power has been reduced by the slight rise in the dollar and the devaluation of the French franc, to which our monetary system is linked. Even worse, for the past 3 years, our coffee production has been 170,000 tons, which is bought from farmers with loans, but which we can not export because of the small quotas accorded us.

Because of this, we are losing considerable revenue needed to replenish the stabilization fund and we do not have the necessary foreign currency for our imports. Obviously, we have made some errors in management that we must correct, but they are nothing compared to the drop in prices which have cost us hundreds of billions of CFA francs. We deliberately engaged in several useful investments which we financed (?ourselves) in order not to (?impedethe achievement of our fixed goals) with debts. One need not be a great economist to understand that we have to use the resources we have, and, consequently, we must limit our expenditures due to circumstances we did not create but of which we are victims.

When we tried to rationalize the state enterprises, we were threatened with strikes by the personnel who were to be laid off due to overstaffing and because some did not have any real posts — strikes by those who were earning up to 2 million CFA francs and whose wages we wanted to reduce to 300,000 to 400,000 CFA francs. We have always counted on the common sense of our compatriots and everything was resolved peacefully despite the difficulties experienced by some because of these measures. We are still reorganizing our structures and the results have been appreciated by high-level international authorities, the IMF and the World Bank. They have full confidence in the Ivory Coast and for us this is a great comfort.

Each Ivorian should be proud of himself or herself for the peaceful and stable atmosphere which prevails in this country. It is within this framework, that of reorganizing our structures, that we had to deal with the question of government leases which go far beyond the acceptable limits. In this regard, the people, and in particular the youth, should not be misled by false arguments. The present leadership of the National Union of Secondary School Teachers of the Ivory Coast [SYNESCI] is fighting for the right to free housing. But they should tell us where in Africa or in the world the right to free housing exists. It is an illusion that the SYNESCI has always given to its members, who should be more cautious.

I recall that in 1962, after our independence, we clearly stated that the only people truly entitled to free housing weresoldiers, policemen, gendarmes, customs personnel, and, in general,all uniformed personnel, as well as certain agents whose functions or responsibilities make it mandatory for the state to give them free housing. But considering my permanent desire to improve the fate of my brothers, and when the financial situation allowed me, I managed to deviate from that administrative housing code and granted the privilege to a certain number of cadres, including the secondary school teachers. But this has never been a right; it is not something they are due. Detaching the teachers' salary scale from that of the Civil Service, which was proof of our special attention to the profession, was not something due them by right either. I personally took that step to demonstrate the importance I attach to the training of the nation's cadres who alone can improve our standard of living, notably by making it possible for us to challenge the industrialized countries by manufacturing our raw materials into finished goods. I found it difficult to persuade the country to see the usefulness of the separate wage scale. Many cadres with the same training, or the same or even longer studies — doctors, engineers and others — grumbled at these measures, which penalized them financially in comparison to their comrades. I had to go to the National Council, which agreed to follow me after long deliberations. But many were not convinced that my explanations were fair; and I will grant that the secondary school teachers are unfortunately justifying those people's complaints. The Ivory Coast is not a socialist country, but in 1960 we proclaimed that our real ambition was to implement the boldest social policy possible. Who can say we have not kept our promise? Taking our resources into account, what country has built more schools, more health centers, more maternity homes, dug more wells in villages, established a better water supply system in urban areas, more electricity networks, and more public electrification in rural and urban areas, more roads and more houses for low-income wage earners, although some people have used those homes from their own, and not their original purposes?

In fact, this matter must be clarified so that our decisions on the state leasing scheme will be understood. Due to the trust placed in the financial health of our country, many cadres, ministers, members of parliament, social and economic council members, civil servants or private individuals and even teachers were given

loans with easy terms, and they have built apartments and villas which are their own property. They were right to do so. But, a great number of these apartments and villas were leased to the state at excessive rates. When we learned of this, we judged it to be unacceptable and denounced such scandalous leasing terms. We also thought of all the Ivorian citizens who did not have access to bank loans. We therefore created two companies, the Company for the Financing and Construction of Housing and the Company for the Financial Management of Housing, whose objective was the building of homes for low-income wage earners and middle-level cadres. Unfortunately, we have discovered that the majority of those houses that should have gone to low-income wage earners were actually taken by cadres who sublet them to the government at a very high cost and to other Ivorians for whom those houses were really destined, but they,too,had to pay exhorbitant rents. As I told you, I have appointed a commission to look into this matter. The commission, which is working silently but efficiently, is made up of young people who have not been guilty of any shady housing speculation and who are working actively and without fanfare in spite of the insults and threats made against them. As soon as I get to the bottom of that still-confused situation, and when the findings of the investigatory body which is working under my personal supervision are submitted to me, I will take the appropriate measures. Houses destined for low-income wage earners or middle-level cadres will be given back to them, and charges of embezzlement will be filed if necessary.

In order clear up any area of confusion, I must recall that I once received the members of the office of the SYNESCI who contacted me. I fully briefed them on the issue of the state leasing scheme and on the reasons why I was obliged to make the decision to suspend the scheme. I told them that with respect to our resources, we could make some contributions to the housing expenses of certain bodies of state agents such as teachers, doctors and magistrates. I assured them that such agents would not be arbitrarily evicted from their houses and that we would take every measure to facilitate the negotiations between tenants and landlords. We have kept our promise. We have carried out our commitment by preventing evictions and encouraging reasonable contracts between the landlords and the state agents concerned. The latter did not fully accept the measures, but they understood the situation which we are now facing.

Only the secondary school teachers seek to impose their demand for free housing on the state. This is mere demagoguery supported by arguments just good enough to get one elected secretary general of a trade union. How can the secondary school teachers believe they can demand such free housing from the state while other state agents who are paid less and their Ivorian brothers in the private sector, who deserve equal attention and have similar expectations of the state, cannot enjoy free housing and sometimes must spend — as I have said — almost half of their salaries on rent. This is mere thoughtlessness on their part, to want to be treated differently from the rest of the Ivorian people. Does anyone know that among the buildings belonging to the state and given to those teachers, such as the buildings in Abidjan-Riviera, Yamoussoukro or Bouake, there are high-quality houses which could be rented at very high rates if they were to be rented on normal terms as practiced in the private sector? They are rented to those civil servants for rates varying between 20,000 CFA and 50,000 CFA according to their location. These are the very houses which the union has promised to obtain free for its members, without realizing that this is totally impossible.

Today, it is the secondary school teachers who are making demands. Tomorrow, if their demands are met, another social group will in turn make its demands and soon the Ivorian state will no longer exist. I therefore made the appropriate decisions yesterday by suspending the salaries of the strikers and expelling them from the houses they are in, if those homes belong to the state. I was also obliged to close the secondary schools since the teachers have gone out on strike.

Do those teachers realize the serious responsibility they assume toward the country when they refuse to carry out their duty on the eve of examinations which consecrate the efforts made by our children during a long year? Do they forget the immense sacrifices made by both parents and the state when they cause those young children to be sent back home when they need nothing but education? They have resorted to such a weapon to exert pressure on the government and to force it to reverse decisions made in the sole and supreme interest of the country.

This means they do not know me very well. The country will not give them free housing. I think that the vast majority of secondary school teachers who allowed themselves to be deceived momentarily by the simplistic demagoguery of their union leaders will realize the excessiveness of their demands and understand that they are being led into an impasse. I rely on the traditional common sense of all Ivorians to allow wisdom to triumph and permit us to pursue a policy of social peace, progress, and work in unity and discipline for the better future of our dear country.

NIGER

Kountche Returns Home, Comments on OAU Summit

AB230850 Paris AFP in French 0722 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Niamey, 23 Apr (AFP) — Niger's head of state, General Seyni Kountche, said on Friday in Niamey that he hopes a real "consensus" will be found by the end of June 1983 so that the forthcoming OAU summit in Addis Ababa can be held successfully.

Returning from Lagos, Nigeria, where he participated on Thursday in the fourth summit of the heads of state of the member states of the Lake Chad Basin Development Commission [CBLT] — Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger — General Kountche stated that "actually the issue of the preparation of the OAU summit was raised bilaterally" outside the summit meeting between Presidents Hissein Habre of Chad, Paul Biya of Cameroon, Shehu Shagari of Nigeria and himself.

He explained that "all the member countries of the CBLT have agreed to refer to the Nairobi Resolutions which, one recalls, recommended the organization of a referendum in Western Sahara "and to the committee created for its implementation."

President Kountche also explained that if the summit must be held, "then we must be sure of its success in the interest of the OAU."

Furthermore, he expressed satisfaction with the firm decision made in Lagos aimed at "reviving" the CBLT, which had suffered a period of inactivity since 1977 because of the civil war in Chad.

NIGERIA

Shagari Warns Against Causing Shortages

AB240930 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has warned that his government would deal ruthlessly with anybody who tried to cause artificial scarcity of commodities in the country. The president gave the warning in Ibadan yesterday at a rally where he presented the National Party of Nigeria [NPN] gubernatorial candidate for Oyo State, Dr Omololu Olunloyo, and his running mate Alhaji Olatunje Mohamed, to the electorate. He stated that the Federal Government has given special priorities for raw materials in the issuance of import licenses.

President Shehu Shagari said that he issued the directives after investigations on why essential commodities produced in the country had been scarce and the prices very high. He blamed the situation on hoarding, manipulated by unpatriotic members of the society.

On the nation's economy, President Shagari said the Unity Party of Nigeria-controlled Governments and their collaborators in the Progressive Alliance had contributed to the situation by mismanaging the funds allocated to them by the Federal Government. He recalled the assistance which his administration has given to the Oyo State Government since its inception, pointing out that it had never been his practice to discriminate against any state in the provision of amenities no matter the party in power in that state. The establishment of [break in transmission] full employment opportunities to the people of this state. He promised the people of Oyo State a qualitative free education and improve health when his party, the NPN, was voted into power in the forthcoming general elections.

President Shagari appealed to the people of the state not to allow themselves to be isolated from the rest of the country.

After receiving the flag of the party from the national chairman of the NPN, Chief Adisa Akinloye, Dr Olunloyo told the rally that no single project is completed by the present government in the state. He stated that all development projects have come to a stand-still and claimed that the only finished projects were those carried out by the military regime. Dr Alunloyo gave the pledge that if voted into power, he would reactivate all the attendant projects and embark on a course of development of new programs for the state.

Others who spoke at the rally included the governor of Sokoto State, Dr Garba Nadama; the NPN secretary general, Senator Uba Ahmed; and the director general of the NPN presidential campaign organization, Dr Umaru Dicko.

SENEGAL

U.S. Aircraft Carrier Blamed for Earth Tremors

AB230940 Paris AFP in French 0906 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 23 Apr (AFP) — The earth tremors noticed on Wednesday in Senegal were caused by the "sonic boom" coming from an air demonstration that included the firing of ammunition which was carried out on the high seas off Dakar (about 80 kms) by an American aircraft carrier, the "U.S.S. Carl Vinson."

A statement issued on Friday evening by the Senegalese Information Ministry pointed out that the aircraft carrier, which is on a visit to Dakar, carried out these exercises in the presence of Senegalese officers.

According to the text, it was the "sonic boom" that caused effects that could be compared to those of an earth tremor of very weak intensity along the Senegalese coast.

TOGO

Ouedraogo Makes Statement on Leaving Lome

AB211829 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Upper Voltan President Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo's predeparture statement at the Lome-Tokoin Airport on 20 April after his state visit to Togo — recorded]

[Excerpts] Mr President [Eyadema], your political activities have always been based on dialogue and consultation. If I readily emphasize your meritorious action, it is because some of your acts constitute the basis for my own political action. Since November 1982, the Upper Voltan people have been in full control of their destiny and are resolutely progressing on the path of social progress and justice with a view to constructing a worthy and prosperous Upper Volta. The People's Salvation Council [CSP] is committed to working for the integrity of the Upper Voltan national character and for the Upper Voltan nation's independence without any complacency.

I affirm that the only ideology of the CSP is to forge a new image for the Upper Voltan so that he will manage and fully assume his destiny. Upper Volta is influenced by no country or ideology whatsoever. Our membership in the Nonaligned Movement actually explains our total determination to remain ourselves, that is, to keep aloof from the major hegemonic ideologies whose rivalry poses a serious threat to world peace and security.

That is the reassuring message which I would like to send to all friendly countries and international organizations that wish to help my country in its daily struggle to ensure the well-being and happiness of the Upper Voltan people.

ANGOLA

SWAPO CC Meeting Reported; Nujoma Reelected

AB240642 Luanda ANGOP in French 1200 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, 23 Apr (ANGOP) — The enlarged meeting of the SWAPO Central Committee, which ended on Wednesday in Cabuta, Angola, made a profound analysis of the political and military situation in Namibia. The meeting was also attended by 138 delegates representing the national directorate of this organization, the high command of PLAN [People's Liberation Army of Namibia] — a branch of the SWAPO army — and representatives of international organizations.

On the situation resulting from the illegal occupation of and the military aggression against Namibia by the racist Pretoria regime which is "supported by international imperialism headed by the Reagan administration," participants of this meeting noted that this is happening at a time when the situation in southern Africa in general and Namibia in particular "has taken on new dimensions, thus seriously threatening international peace and security."

In fact, this enlarged meeting of the SWAPO Central Committee, which was also attended by zonal war representatives, as well as representatives of the National Union of Namibian Workers and the Namibian Center for Health and Education in Angola and Zambia, denounced the support of the NATO countries particularly the United States, Great Britain, the FRG, Canada, and Japan [as received] for the repressive policy of exploiting human and natural resources, particularly by South Africa in Namibia.

The participants also denounced "the abominable system of Bantushans" imposed on Namibia by the occupationist Pretoria regime within the framework of a perpetual domination of the territory, the establishment of the so-called "Council of Ministers" of the National Asesembly, and the Southwest Territorial Force made up of more than 125,000 members of the occupation forces.

The participants also denounced the use of Namibian territory by the Pretoria regime as the "starting point" of their aggressions against the neighboring countries, more particularly Angola — a victim of the policy of destabilization, subversion, and armed incursions perpetrated by Pretoria.

"But for the convenience and the help of the imperialist powers headed by the Reagan administration, South Africa alone cannot maintain its illegal occupation of Namibia," states the final communique issued at the end of this enlarged meeting of the SWAPO Central Committee. During the meeting, the hideous attempt by Washington and Pretoria to establish a link between the independence of Namibia and the presence of Cuban International Forces in Angola was also denounced. On this very issue, SWAPO considers that the Western contact group on Namibia has proved itself incapable of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 435.

SWAPO then appealed to the UN Security Council to exercise its full responsibility for the rapid implementation of UN Resolution 435, since it has been realized that the activities of the so-called contact group have "become useless and have been transformed into a simple furtive action in favor of the racists."

Furthermore, the SWAPO Central Committee has condemned the crimes committed by South Africa, with the complicity of the United States, against the people's of the People's Republic of Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, the Seychelles, and the other African countries, and has invited the people of Namibia to close ranks around their vanguard organization in the struggle to expel the South African occupational forces.

On the other hand, SWAPO leaders have expressed their deep gratitude to the Central Committee of the MPLA-Labor Party and to its chairman, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, for the political, diplomatic, and material support he has given to the Namibian people's struggle — a support which has expanded to the countries of the socialist community, especially the USSR, Cuba, and the GDR, as well as to the Nonaligned Movement, antiapartheid movements of Eastern Europe and Northern America, the Netherlands, and the northern countries, especially Sweden.

The SWAPO Central Committee also paid tribute to the OAU and the "frontline" states and reaffirmed its support for the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Palestine, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and Western Sahara under the leadership of their vanguard movements against imperialism in order to win national liberty and independence.

The supreme organ of SWAPO also vehemently condemned the European parliament's decision to give direct educational and financial assistance to the regime occupying Namibian territory and to Angolan refugees in northern Angola who are nothing but counterrevolutionary elements at the service of the racist army. It also invited the European community to reject this resolution and to channel all assistance to Namibians through the UN Council on Namibia or through SWAPO.

It is worth recalling that this second enlarged meeting of the SWAPO Central Committee, like the first one held in Nampunde (Zambia), has seen the reelection of Sam Nujoma and David Meroro as the organization's chairman and vice chairman respectively. It has also elected a new Central Committee and Political Bureau.

UN Delegation Leader Holds Press Conference

MB221018 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] During a press conference which marked the end of the visit by the delegation of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid yesterday afternoon, the head of the delegation, Mohamed Sahnun, made an appraisal of the situation resulting from South Africa's aggression against our country, the extent of which can be described as particularly dramatic.

The material losses suffered up to the beginning of 1982 were estimated at more than $7 billion and the number of dead at more than 10,000 people, and this itself shows the gravity of the situation faced by the People's Republic of Angola.

Asked by a journalist to elaborate on the potential amount of aid to be granted to our country in view of these large losses, Mohamed Sahnun gave assurances that in its report the delegation, which has ended a visit to southern Africa, will make recommendations to the concerned UN organs to strengthen support for Angola and will appeal to the world community to send aid to our country.

Still referring to our country the head of the delegation of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid condemned the crimes committed by the invading South African troops against defenseless people, not only against Angolans but also against the Namibian refugee community, which has been estimated at more than 70,000 people who are regularly subjected to kidnapping, torture, and intimidation in an attempt to force them to give information to the racist authorities.

Mohamed Sahnun stressed that the Paris conference, which is expected to begin on 25 April, is designed to raise the possibility of another in-depth review of the Namibian question, since the situation is deliberately complicated by the Pretoria authorities, who refuse to implement the resolutions of the competent international bodies. He said that the Paris conference will prepare the ground for a meeting of the UN Security Council on Namibia to take place perhaps this year.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon the delegation of the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid held a meeting with high-ranking officers of our armed forces, during which Captain (Mario Sila), member of the reconnaisance division of the Ministry of Defense, elaborated on the acts of aggression carried out by the racist regime's troops against the People's Republic of Angola. The South African military capability and the acts of sabotage carried out by the racists against our economic units were also discussed during the meeting.

A member of the UN delegation wanted to know about the objectives of the South African Army in its occupation of Xangongo locality, and Capt (Mario Sila) said that the occupation is designed to form a buffer zone to facilitate the movement of South African troops during their aggressive operations inside our country.

The UN delegation, which left our country last night, was also received by the ministers of foreign affairs and justice of our government, and it held a meeting with a SWAPO delegation led by its president, Sam Nujoma. The delegation also visited Petrangol refinery, where it held a meeting with the company's management during which it was informed of the losses and consequences resulting from sabotage carried out by a mercenary group on 30 November 1981.

Lisbon: UNITA Claims Angolan Town Captured
LD222032 Lisbon in Portuguese to Europe 1900 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] UNITA, in a communique issued in Lisbon, claims to have taken the Angolan town of Munhango, a strategic point on the Benguela railroad, sited between the central plateau and the eastern part of the country. The capture of Munhango — the birthplace of UNITA President Jonas Savimbi — was achieved after a 45-minute battle in which the MPLA, according to the communique, suffered 214 casualties. UNITA claims to have captured 15 of the 570-strong garrison, and to have liberated some 10,200 people who lived, as the communique reads, under the oppression of the minority MPLA government.

The attack was reportedly filmed by a television crew and witnessed by a group of foreign journalists.

Captured Europeans 'Out of Reach' of MPLA Forces
MB221749 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 22 Apr 83

[UNITA radio: unattributed commentary]

[Text] Sixty-four Czechoslovak citizens were captured by UNITA during the attack on the Alto Catumbela industrial complex on 12 March 1983. Those who closely follow current international political events will agree with us that the issue of the 64 Czechoslovak citizens captured by UNITA continues to receive prominence in international news and much attention in the largest well-known newspapers and magazines from the most thoughtful and aware sectors, and it is daily receiving outstanding coverage in radio news broadcasts by all international radios. As a matter of fact and frankly speaking, we must consider the FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] victories at Lomaum in January and at the Alto Catumbela industrial complex in March this year as a big blow that mortally wounded the Luanda minority regime politically, militarily, and economically.

Internationally, the MPLA chieftains have become totally discredited inasmuch as up to now they remained silent about the expansion and the depth of the UNITA guerrilla struggle, trying in vain at the international level to belittle the struggle for national resistance led by UNITA, which they hypocritically described as: small groups attacking small targets along the border with Namibia.

The UNITA victories at Lomaum and the Alto Catumbela industrial complex resulted, among other things, in the capture of foreign citizens who worked for the illegal Luanda regime. Those captured at Lomaum last January have already arrived safe and healthy at the UNITA central base.

The 20 Portuguese citizens and 64 Czechoslovaks are already out of reach of the Cuban troops and FAPLA [People's Armed

Forces for the Liberation of Angola] vampires, who during all this period launched thousands of Cuban and FAPLA soldiers with all their ground and air war machinery against the routes they assumed the Czechoslovak citizens would take, in an attempt to get them back.

The mercenary Cuban troops and FAPLA vampires failed in their offensive to recover the 20 Portuguese citizens and 64 Czechoslovaks, and the laboratory of lies, ANGOP, in close liaison with the parrots of Luanda radio, tried to cover the broken spirit of the frustrated Cubans and FAPLA soldiers with flowers by announcing that they had located the UNITA column with the 20 Portuguese citizens and 64 Czechoslovaks — a gross and poorly conceived lie. Would the Cubans and FAPLA, with aircraft and all their war arsenal, have wanted merely to locate the column and move side by side with it?

What is true is that the FALA attack on Alto Catumbela, the destruction of the industrial complex and the cellulose plant, the capture of 20 Portuguese citizens and 64 Czechoslovaks and the safe and free transit of these 84 foreigners captured from Alto Catumbela to the impenetrable liberated zones of UNITA has once again proven to the world the ability and the supremacy of our party and armed forces in their various aspects. It has once again proven the expansion and depth of the UNITA guerrillas in 13 of the 16 provinces which our country legally consists of, and it has destroyed the wall of disinformation built by the bad masons of the MPLA in an attempt to hide the truth from the Angolan people and the world.

UNITA Radio Interviews MPLA 'Deserters'

MB230743 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Angolan people, compatriots: The manifestation of the true conscience of a sane man toward the compartiots who have been taken prisoner from the ranks of the enemy, and the support for and care of members of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA], the People's Defense Organization [ODP], and the other elements who have fled from enemy-held areas to UNITA bases to seek freedom and join the national liberation effort, are in response to the guidelines laid down by the leadership of our party and our armed forces. UNITA militants and combatants of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] throughout the country have instructions to welcome and take good care of the compatriots who, disillusioned with the hideous puppet regime of the MPLA chieftains, may join UNITA in the bush. Many compatriots have been arriving at UNITA bases from towns and villages that are still controlled by the Cubans and the MPLA vampires.

In a moment, we will broadcast remarks by compatriots (Joao Batista) and (Constatino Armando Santos), who recently fled from the areas under enemy control and were interviewed by the UNITA party information service. [musical interlude]

[Question] Compatriot, what is your identity?

[First deserter] My name is (Joao Batista Mande). I am a native of (Munhalo). I have lived in Huambo Province. Because of several problems — I had a house in Cuima and another on inHuambo Province — I lived in those houses when I was conducting my businesses with a truck I had.

[Question] Have you, Compartiot, ever served in the FAPLA?

[First deserter] No, Sir, I have never served in the FAPLA.

[Question] How did you, Compatriot, succeed in escaping the sweeps that the MPLA carries out to compel the youths to join the FAPLA? You look very young, and this appears to be a bit strange. How were you able to dodge the MPLA sweeps?

[First deserter] I was able to dodge them, anyway. I was not the only young man who dodged the sweeps. As far as I know, many youths have also dodged them, under the same conditions as myself, by fleeing from town to a commune or a village to hide there until the MPLA ends their sweeps and then we return to town.

They know perfectly well that when they serve in the FAPLA, they will become cannon fodder, as has happened to a number of people who have served in the FAPLA. They know that the FAPLA forces fighting in eastern Angola are often defeated by the UNITA forces. They also know that the FAPLA soldiers, instead of facing UNITA on the battlefield, remain in their camps, where they remove their uniforms and hide them under their beds. They also hide their weapons. Usually, they do not report for duty in their units, and they use the arms they hide to terrorize the people.

[Question] Were you, Compatriot, informed of the defeats that the FAPLA has suffered? You have cited the fighting in eastern Angola where the FAPLA is suffering defeats. Who told you about these defeats?

[First deserter] People all over Angola talk about FAPLA defeats. I have traveled throughout Angola, and through the broadcasts of the Black Cockerel, I was able to get information on what was happening, particularly in Angola. We were also able to get reports from the FAPLA members who were returning from the fronts or from those who were abandoning the fronts.

These reports made it crystal clear that the MPLA never reports the battlefield deaths of its combatants to their family and friends. Therefore, many youths dodge service in the armed froces because they do not want to serve as cannon fodder. They know that the MPLA officials lead the good life. They live in cities where they eat and drink a lot, and they send the youths to serve in the bush. This is not fair.

Back on the subject of my life, I was a man who was working on my own, and I had my own life. One day I found or met some comrades, and I did not quite know whether they were UNITA militants or not. They were a very funny lot. They asked questions, and we had a talk with them, after which they took me to a house where we continued the discussion about the situation in Angola and the enslavement of the black people of Angola. Yesterday, we were enslaved by the Portuguese, and today we are enslaved by the Cubans. I enjoyed the conversation a great

deal. I found it important. They took me with them, and we talked some more. We walked for many days. When I arrived here, I was well-received, and I have nothing bad to say. As you can see, I am free. I am fine. I feel better here than I would in a town.

I felt that I had to leave for the bush because in the town I could not follow the enemy propaganda. I hated being enslaved by the Cubans. The brothers whom I met and with whom I talked made these feeling even stronger. I felt that I was an Angolan, and I decided to come to the bush to prepare myself for a new struggle. For example, the MPLA says that the most important thing is to solve the problems of the people; however, they say this yet they do nothing about it. In towns one sees much famine. In those towns, they have (zempas) or people's shops, or what they call people's shops. These shops have nothing inside them.

The MPLA insists on saying that the most important thing is to solve the problems of the people, but the MPLA leaders have everything. There are shops for the leaders, and these shops do not lack anything.

[Question] The MPLA has been trying to portray UNITA as a gang of bandits — that is a small, disorganized gang of murderers. It is a propaganda campaign waged by the MPLA to mislead the youth and all Angolans. You have come to the bush. What do you think about UNITA, and what is UNITA really?

[First deserter] UNITA is a party that fights for the interests of the people, of the majority.

[Question] Comrade, what is your identity?

[Second deserter] I am called (Constatino Armando Santos). I was a teacher at (Katato). I was born in the village of (Songete) in the Catete commune. I am the son of (Armando Candumbe) and [name indistinct].

[Question] Compatriot, what prompted you to come to our bases?

[Second Deserter] As soon as I saw that the situation under the enemy was not favorable and that living there made no sense, I resolved to come to join others here.

[Question] What do you, Compatriot, mean when you say that the situation was unfavorable?

[Second deserter] More precisely, there has been widespread famine since 1975. There is no medical care. There is nothing at all. Before a person gets something to eat, he must be an MPLA chieftan. There is a lot of theft.

Take the case of the peasants. I have seen it with my own eyes. Even the old men know about this perfectly well. An individual takes two wheelbarrows full of potatoes. He takes the potatoes to sell them with the aim of getting something. Then, the buyers, the government, take the two wheelbarrows with potatoes. Instead of giving the man who brings the potatoes money or clothes, they give him a receipt. After 2 weeks, the man goes to the buyers to inquire about the payment for the potatoes. He is told that the copy of the receipt has been lost. The man is left without his potatoes, and he is not given anything. Moreover, the people who eat the potatoes are the leaders.

Is this the way we are going to live? We cannot live in this manner. When I thought about this and, since I have always listened to our Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel, which was calling us to desert, I, in fact, decided to come here. You people whom I left behind, you know that it has been only a short while ago that we left each other. You people back there freedom only means the presence of a Cuban — a Cuban or a Russian who is a racist, who is of no use to anybody. I could not cope with that sort of life. Now I am here. Why don't you people do as we have done? Why don't you, people, do as I have done? Why? You know me, don't you? I am (Santos). In fact, I always used to chat with you people. Now, I am here. What I have done is a very good example for you. We were told that, if we joined UNITA, we would be killed. That was false, in fact. It is false. Could I be alive here?

Since I came here, to the bush, I have toured several bases, and at each base that I toured things are organized. Here there is a good organization. There are schools. There are schools in operation here and, in fact, they are operating in a better way. There are hospitals. There are goods here that the MPLA is unbale to obtain for the shops.

Polish Envoy Travels to Namibe Province

AB231233 Luanda ANGOP in French 1052 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, 23 Apr 83 (ANGOP) — Roman Czyzycki, Poland's ambassador to Angola, arrived early yesterday afternoon in Namibe — formerly Mocamedes — on an official working visit, official sources said. Speaking to the press, the Polish diplomat stated that his visit is aimed at studying the province's economic potentialities for the elaboration of new cooperation agreements between Angola and Poland.

Roman Czyzycki was met on his arrival at the Youri Gargarine Airport by Deputy Provincial Commissioner Alcidio Pereira and members of the Polish community in Namibe.

Defense Minister Meets Bulgaria's Zhivkov

MB230915 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 23 Apr 83

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, who is on an official visit to Bulgaria, was received yesterday by the secretary general of the Bulgarian Communist Party and president of the State Council of that country, Todor Zhivkov. The meeting, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, was attended by Army General Dobri Dzhurov, a member of the Political Bureau of the Bulgarian Communist Party, who is also the Bulgarian defense minister.

MALAWI

President Discusses Coming Elections 22 April

MB221843 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] His excellency the life president, Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda, announced today that Parliament and the Cabinet would be dissolved on the 18th of next month in readiness for the forthcoming general elections. The life president made the announcement at the Kamuzu Military College in Salima, where he commissioned army officer cadets.

In making the announcement the life president said that he wanted the elections to be free and fair. The life president stressed that he did not want interference in the whole process of the elections. He said no party leader should stand in the way of an aspiring candidate for personal reasons. The life president then issued a stern warning that anyone interfering in the election process would hear from him. The ngwazi said he was issuing the warning because he was serious about the forthcoming elections and emphasized that in every constituency not less than three and not more than five candidates should stand.

Earlier, the life president told the huge crowd that he was happy that the Malawi Army appreciated what he was doing for the soldiers since the country attained independence. The life president was commenting on remarks by the Army commander, General (Khanga), who commended the development of the Army by the provision of modern facilities and elevation of Malawian soldiers to high positions in the Army.

The life president said it was indeed true that at the time he took over the government the situation both in the Army and the police was pathetic. Soldiers and policemen had no shoes and they slept in huts built of mud. He added that this was no longer the case now since soldiers and policemen now sleep in good houses and are well dressed.

The life president also spoke about the cordial relations that exist between Malawi and Kenya, which he said, date back to the days of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the first president of Kenya, who, he said, was not only a friend but also a brother.

In his remarks of welcome, the army commander, General (Khanga) assured the life president that the Army in this country would continue to remain loyal to the ngwazi and the government. General (Khanga) said the Army will be on the constant lookout for anyone who wanted to disrupt the prevailing peace and calm, law and order. He said the Army would deal ruthlessly with any [words indistinct].

General (Khanga) also paid tribute to the ngwazi for what he had done to develop the Army in the country. He recalled that before the life president took over the country's leadership there were no Malawian Army officers. Turning to Army officers, General (Khanga), warned against taking things for granted but advised them to realize that the situation was as good as it was in the country's Army because of the ngwazi. He urged them to have high respect for authorities in this country.

And the regional minister for the center, Mr Aaron Gadama paid tribute to the life president for developing the Malawi Army, which he described as the pride of the nation. He reported that there was cooperation between the Malawi Army and all the people of this country. Mr Gadama said the people of Salima were grateful to the ngwazi for establishing the military college in the district. All together, 40 officer cadets were commissioned, including 10 from Kenya.

MOZAMBIQUE

Infiltration of RSA-Armed Agents Increases

MB240850 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] A group of South African-armed agents, who were preparing to carry out acts of military sabotage in our country, has been frustrated by the people's vigilance on 19 April near Namaacha, on the border with South Africa. The gang, dressed in civilian clothes, was transporting 64 bars of explosives and special timers for setting time bombs, and various false documents, including indentity cards, which were captured by the defense and security forces. However, as our forces were identifying the gang and searching the bags that they were transporting, one of the South African agents opened fire, enabling the others to flee.

According to official Mozambique sources, the infiltration of enemy agents has been intensifying over the past weeks, as South African troops continue their buildup on their side of the border.

Delegations Arrive For Frelimo Congress

MB250625 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 24 Apr 83

[Text] More foreign delegations arrived in Maputo this morning to participate in the fourth congress of the Frelimo Party. They include the delegations from the Korean Workers Party, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Vietnam Communist Party, the Chilean Communist Party, the Polish United Workers Party, and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The delegations were met at Maputo airport by Joaquim Chissano, the minister of foreign affairs; Armando Guebuza, Sofala Province governor, resident minister in Sofala and national political commissar of the Armed Forces; and Mario Machungo, the minister of planning and agriculture — all members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Frelimo Party. Several people in Maputo, incldudng guest workers from many countries, gave a warm welcome to the foreign delegations that have been invited to attend the fourth congress.

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Replies to Bishops on Namibia

MB221543 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, says South Africa is not involved in South-West Africa out of its own will but because the people of the region want it. Speaking in the debate on his budget vote in the House of Assembly, Mr Botha referred to the request by the synod of bishops of the Anglican Church of South Africa that South Africa withdraw its forces from South-West Africa.

He said that this was just a political game, as representatives from all levels of the community in South-West Africa had last year asked South Africa not to withdraw from the territory. These people knew what South Africa was doing to help develop and protect the people of the territory. Mr Botha wanted to know from the bishops who would carry the 170 million rand loss of the South African transport services in the territory if South Africa withdrew. He also wanted to know who would protect the residents of South-West Africa against communist forces and who would supply drought aid to the territory.

ZAMBIA

Zairian Embassy Suspected of Counterfeiting

AB221137 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Lusaka, April 22 (AFP) — Zambia police have put the Zaire Embassy under a 24-hour watch following a tip that the building is the source of thousands of forged British pounds, U.S. dollars and South African rands. The embassy is covered by diplomatic immunity and Zambian security officers cannot carry out a search of the building, but sources here said that Zambia and Zaire were holding "high-level negotiations" on how to resolve the tricky problem. A Zaire Embassy spokesman declined to comment, and a member of the embassy staff said the ambassador was in Zaire and his deputy was out of town. Local security officers fear that if any money printing machines are in the embassy building attempts might be made to smuggle them out.

On Friday Police Public Relations Officer Christopher Mhango showed a news conference stacks of the forged banknotes. Police have since arrested seven Zairians in connection with the counterfeit currencies. Lusaka Police Chief Geoffrey Mukum confirmed that police had "received a tip about the printing machine being at the Zaire Embassy" but declined further information "because of the complexity of the case." He had reported the matter "to my superiors who are handling the case."

Several local people are reported to have been swindled out of their kwacha by the forgers, who sell the phoney dollar or rand for three kwacha each while a fake pound sterling goes for twice that amount. Some Zambians are prepared to pay a high premium for foreign currency because of austerity measures introduced by the government, which include a ban on foreign exchange purchases.

Zambia and Zaire have a history of border disputes, which include allegations from both sides of illegal cross-border trafficking of goods.

ZIMBABWE

Three Arrested, Linked to Murder of Senator

MB221548 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1548 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April, 22 SAPA — The police had arrested three men, including one who had admitted responsibility for the murder on Easter Sunday of 70-year-old Senator Paul Savage, his daughter, Colleen, 20, and their British visitor, Miss Sandra Bennett, 38, a government spokesman said today. The man had also told of the involvement of seven other dissidents who had since crossed the border into Botswana, the spokesman said. Police investigations in liaison with Botswana authorities were underway.

The spokesman said police had also established that a dissident injured during the shooting at the savage homestead about 130 km south of Bulawayo was taken to a traditional healer near the Botswana border and later taken into Botswana for further treatment in Francistown, where he is in hospital. The traditional healer and his son had been arrested for helping the dissident to leave the country. Steps were being taken to ensure the man's return to Zimbabwe and to arrest him, the spokesman said. All the men arrested so far would soon appear in court.

The victims were gunned down at their home. One dissident, believed to have been acidentally shot by his own men, was ferried away in a Land Rover belonging to the Senator and buried in a shallow grave when the vehicle broke down.

The senator's wife, Bettie, was wounded but is recovering.

Dissidents Kill ZANU-PF District Chairman

MB221123 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] A police spokesman has confirmed that dissidents on Tuesday killed the chairman of the ZANU-PF for Tongogara District in Zhongwe, Comrade Badson Dube. The spokesman said four dissidents dressed in the old Rhodesian camouflage killed Comrade Dube at (Muzambiki) village. They also set the house on fire, and the body of the deceased was inside the house.

In a message of condolence, the chairman of ZANU-PF in the Midlands Province, Comrade Shava, expressed militant solidarity with the family and party members of Zhongwe area. Comrade Shava, who is also minister of manpower planning and development, urged party members not to be intimidated into political inactivity by the cowardly acts of dissidents.